

Symposium on the leading Edge of Research and Publishing in ‘One country, two system’ and the Rule of Law in Hong Kong Successfully Organised

Dec 9, 2023/ Rianne BAI

On December 9, 2023, the conference of *Adherence to Principles and Innovation: A Symposium on the leading Edge of Research and Publishing in ‘One country, two system’ and the Rule of Law in Hong Kong*, jointly hosted by the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong and the Joint Publishing (Hong Kong) Limited, and organized by Public Law and Human Rights Forum of the School of Law, was successfully conducted. The event was attended by over forty scholars and guests from Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan. Distinguished scholars and legal professionals served as moderators, engaging in meaningful dialogue to explore relevant issues concerning "One Country, Two Systems" and the rule of law in Hong Kong.

The conference officially commenced at 9:15 a.m., with **Ms Janice YIP Pui-chu**, General Manager of Joint Publishing (Hong Kong) Limited, and **Professor Zhu Guobin** from the Law School of the City University of Hong Kong delivering the opening remarks.



Subsequently, the conference proceeded to the first theme, namely "**Chinese Constitution and the Basic Law of Hong Kong.**" In this section, **Professor Priscilla Leung Mei-fun** (Professor of Practice at the Law School of the City University of Hong Kong, Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Member of the Basic Law Committee of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress) began with personal experiences, emphasizing the need to understand the Chinese Constitution, especially the 1982 Constitution, to comprehend the global context, Hong Kong's development, and the future of "One Country, Two Systems." **Professor Rao Geping** (Retired Professor from Peking University Law School) discussed the implementation of the Chinese constitution and the

Basic Law from a policy perspective. Emphasizing the comprehensive understanding and implementation of "One Country, Two Systems" and the Basic Law, it requires compliance from the Hong Kong and Macao societies, with the central and special administrative region authorities understanding the exercise of public power. It is essential to maintain the national system, respect Hong Kong's



capitalism, preserve a high degree of autonomy, respect the legal system previously in force, implement the "Hong Kong National Security Law," safeguard residents' rights, adhere to the "patriots governing Hong Kong" principle, and foster social diversity and inclusiveness. **Professor Huang Mingtao** (Professor at Wuhan University Law School), **Professor Sun Cheng** (Associate Professor at the Hong Kong and Macao Basic Law Research Center of Shenzhen University), **Professor Shen Taixia** (Associate Professor at the Law School of Jinan University), **Researcher Deng Daqi** (Researcher at the Institute of Political and Legal Studies of the Shenzhen Academy of Social Sciences), and **Professor Tian Lei** (Professor at the Law School of East China Normal University) presented reports on in-depth topics such as constitutional safeguards of Hong Kong's common law system, language provisions in the Basic Law, 25 years' rule of law and human rights in Hong Kong, and differences and coordination in interpretive methods, etc. .

In the theme of “**Hong Kong Legal System under 'One Country, Two Systems'.**”. **The Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah** (Member of the Executive Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government, Senior Barrister) addressed issues related to "One Country, Two Systems" and the legal system in Hong Kong. He refuted perspectives that undermine the legal system in Hong Kong, emphasizing that nationwide laws implemented in Hong Kong should be included in Annex III. He also pointed out that the "Hong Kong National Security Law" explicitly upholds the principle of the rule of law but stressed the need for further clarification, particularly concerning the younger generation. **Professor Albert Chen Hung-yee** (Cheng Chan Lan Ru Fund Chair Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Hong Kong) responded to **Professor Sun Cheng's** concerns about the language issues in the Basic Law of Hong Kong, emphasizing the necessity of Chinese in legal research. Professor Chen shared insights into the connections and interactions between Hong Kong's common law system and the legal system on the mainland under "One Country, Two Systems." This included aspects such as interpretations by the National People's Congress, basic law precedents from Hong Kong courts, decisions by the National People's Congress, and agreements between the two regions, highlighting that these measures constitute essential elements of the successful experience of "One Country, Two Systems." **Professor Wang Lei** (Professor at Peking University Law School), **Professor Wu Libin** (Associate Professor at the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Development Research Institute of Sun Yat-sen University), **Dr. Lu Wenwen** (Assistant Professor at the Hong Kong and Macau Basic Law Research Center of Shenzhen University), **Dr. Liu Mengni** (Ph.D. in Law from the University of Macau, Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Basic Law Research Association of the Guangdong Law Society), and **Dr. Zhou Ting** (Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law of the Macau University of Science and Technology)

respectively presented reports and speeches on the new developments in the legal system of Hong Kong under "One Country, Two Systems," the legal path of patriotic education in Hong Kong, challenges, adaptation, and development of common law under "One Country, Two Systems," the practical implementation of the constitution by Hong Kong courts, and enhancing the legal aid system in Hong Kong from the perspective of protecting vulnerable groups.



In the afternoon, the third session on "**Hong Kong National Security Law and Rights Protection**" first commenced. In the theme of "Hong Kong National Security Law and Rights Protection," **Professor Zhu Guobin** (Professor at the Law School of City University of Hong Kong) proposed that Hong Kong society should consider constructing a national security legal system, including the constitution, Basic Law, and the "Hong Kong National Security Law." At the same time, he advocated for upholding common law values, allowing courts to interpret and apply the "Hong Kong National Security Law," and promoting the development of case law. **Professor Huang Mingtao** (Professor at Wuhan University Law School) added that the attitude of the executive is crucial, urging a long-term perspective in addressing issues. **Dr. P Y Lo** (Barrister in England and Hong Kong), **Professor Fu Jing** (Associate Professor at the Law School of Central University of Finance and Economics), **Dr. Zhang Xiaosong** (Lecturer at the Law School of Guangdong University of Foreign Studies), **The Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah** (Member of the Executive Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Senior Barrister), and **Professor Anthony**



Cheung Bing-leung (Chair Professor of Public Administration at the Education University of Hong Kong) reported on topics such as the 2023 judgments of the Hong Kong Court of Final Appeal, theoretical aspects of court cases involving national security law, privacy rights and LGBTQ+ rights, the nature and development direction of national security law, and the impact of its implementation on public opinion.

In the theme of "**Political, Economic, and Cultural Development and the Construction of the Greater Bay Area in Hong Kong and Macau**," **Professor Wang Lei** (Professor at Peking University Law School) stated that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area is an excellent mechanism and platform for both the mainland and Hong Kong-Macau, featuring distinct Chinese characteristics and leveraging the institutional advantages of "One Country, Two Systems." Among the "9+2" city clusters in the Greater Bay

Area, the economic foundation of the Pearl River Delta is robust, combined with the unique institutional advantages of Hong Kong and Macau, ensuring ample development space for this innovative Greater Bay Area concept. **Dr. Hoey Simon Lee** (Member of the Legislative Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Member of



of the Basic Law Committee of the National People's Congress Standing Committee) further pointed out that in the development of the Greater Bay Area, the current status of "One Country, Two Systems, Three Jurisdictions" is both the biggest challenge and the unique advantage of the Greater Bay Area. The integrated development of the Greater Bay Area requires not only the construction of "hard infrastructure" such as high-speed railways and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge but also the support of "soft infrastructure" such as legal systems. It is necessary to improve legal infrastructure and promote coordination among the three regions to build a high-quality development under the principle of optimal selection, ultimately forming a strategically competitive industrial cluster. Additionally, **Researcher Chen Xinxin** (Researcher at the Law Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), **Dr. Henry Ho Kin-chung** (Founder and Chairman of the "One Country, Two Systems" Youth Forum, Member of the Expert Group of the Chief Executive's Policy Address), **Researcher Ren Jun** (Researcher at the Cultural Research Institute of Shenzhen Academy of Social Sciences), **Dr. Ding Peng** (Researcher at the Human Rights Research Institute of Wuhan University, Director of the China Disabled Persons' Development Research Association), **Professor Zhu Shihai** (Professor at the Faculty of Law of the Macau University of Science and Technology), and **Professor Peng Jun** (Associate Professor at the School of Law and Management of Beijing Industrial Vocational Technical College) respectively reported on various rich topics, including Hong Kong's distinctive high-level common law guiding the Greater Bay Area towards the world, the "commuting-style integration" of the Greater Bay Area, identity recognition and Hong Kong cultural policies, legal coordination for disability rights protection in the Greater Bay Area, the evolution of Macau's residency legislation, and the legislative transformation of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

In the fifth and last theme of "**Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Entire China from an International Perspective**," **Professor Wang Shaoguang** (Professor Emeritus at the Chinese University of Hong Kong) examined the changing trajectory of the relative global positions of the two sides of the Taiwan Strait and the broader region, considering both hard and soft power, by analyzing data from the "QS World University Rankings" from 2004 to 2024. Professor Wang pointed out that the various ecologies in Taiwan and Hong Kong societies reflect the participants' judgments on the comparison of strengths. **Dr. Yan Xiaojun** (Associate Professor in the Department of Politics and Public Administration and Director of the China Studies Centre at the University of Hong Kong) proposed that before the implementation of the "Hong Kong National Security Law", Hong Kong was considered a "buffer" and "gateway" between the West and China. After the legislation of the "Hong Kong National Security Law", the role of Hong Kong may need some elevation: it should become an exemplar of "civilization coexistence and institutional symbiosis," an excellent place to explore the uniqueness and universality of Chinese civilization, and a bridge connecting China and the external world. Additionally, **Professor Lin Feng** (Dean and Professor at the School of Law, City University of Hong Kong) supplemented the discussion on the impact of the "Hong Kong National

Security Law” on Hong Kong's constitutional order. **Professor Wang Jiangyu** (Professor at the Law School of City University of Hong Kong), **Dr. Tsai Cheng-yuan** (Chairman of the Sun Yat-sen Memorial Library Foundation, former Executive Director and Deputy Secretary-General of the Policy Research Department of the Kuomintang), **Professor Jiang Shigong** (Vice President and Professor at the Central University for Nationalities), and **Professor Zhang Yongle** (Distinguished Associate Professor at Peking University Law School) each delivered insightful presentations on topics such as the impact on Hong Kong in the current international context, the legal status of Taiwan and its authorities, the understanding of "Hong Kong" in the context of the restart of "One Country, Two Systems," and the repositioning of Hong Kong as a "Global Southern" city.



At the conclusion of the Conference, **Professor Lin Feng** delivered a concluding speech, congratulating the Joint Publishing (HK) Ltd. on its 75th anniversary, expressing gratitude to the participants, and urging strengthened efforts in Chinese research and writing. **Dr. Zhou Jianhua**, Chief Editor of the Joint Publishing (HK) Ltd, called on scholars at the Conference to continue research contributing to the fields of "One Country, Two Systems " and the Greater Bay Area development.

