CityU’s Law School Forges Ties with Vienna University and Columbia University
30 November 2011
-Grace Chen

Law students at City University of Hong Kong (CityU) are set to benefit from new pedagogic agreements signed between CityU’s School of Law and two highly prestigious laws schools in Europe and the US.

The Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna has participated in a new postgraduate exchange programme, while the Columbia Law School at the University of Columbia in New York will join CityU’s Global Legal Education and Awareness Project (G-LEAP).

The signing ceremony was attended by Professor Heinz Mayer, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Vienna; Professor Brian Gibson, Dean, International and Comparative Programs, School of Law, Columbia University; Brother Steve Hogan, Principal, La Salle College; Professor Way Kuo, President of CityU; Professor Arthur Ellis, Provost of CityU; and Professor Wang Guiguo, Dean, School of Law, CityU, at CityU on 30 November.

Under the postgraduate exchange programme signed between CityU’s School of Law and the Faculty of Law at the University of Vienna, students from each institution will undertake one full term at the home university and the other at the host university. The courses that the students complete will be accredited by both universities, and the degrees will be awarded by both universities, too.

In Vienna, the CityU students will gain an indepth understanding of the civil law tradition, the latest developments in comparative legal discourse, and current trends in legal theory and jurisprudence, all within the context of European law. Upon completion of those courses, CityU students will be awarded a LLM degree by Vienna University.
CityU’s G-LEAP allows students studying law at CityU to spend one month at one of the partner institutions. Under the collaboration with Columbia Law School, 30 students each semester on the Bachelor of Laws and Juris Doctor programmes will take a tailor-made course at the Columbia Law School. Tuition fees and accommodation costs will be subsidised by CityU and its School of Law.

Columbia Law School joins the Faculty of Law at Monash University and University College, Oxford as members of the programme. CityU’s School of Law is the only one in Hong Kong to have signed an institution-level agreement with Columbia Law School.

Professor Heinz Mayer said: “Vienna Law Faculty is extremely pleased to sign the first agreement with CityU Law School, which enjoys a good reputation in Europe. Vienna Law Faculty has great tradition in the education of legal theory, legal philosophy, jurisprudence, etc. We hope a large number of CityU students come to study and make friends in Vienna. We also hope to extend our collaboration through exchanges of professors and research cooperation.”

Professor Brian Gibson believes that under the G-LEAP, students will be exposed largely to cultural enrichment which will broaden their perspectives and benefit career development. He added: “The agreement is an extension of the robust institutional relationship between the two universities. We are attracted by the level of energy, dynamism and intellectual curiosity of CityU, and look forward to more institutional linkages between the two schools.”

Professor Way Kuo regarded the two collaborations as exciting themes consistent with the mission of CityU, which is to be a professional school and promoting international collaborations. He thanked the Law School for making the university well-known and being recognized by the world.

Professor Wang Guiguo expressed his gratitude to Vienna University and Columbia University for the throughout support to facilitate the collaboration. His
special thanks go to the supportive leadership of the university. He said: “Our School is committed to working for the benefit of the students. We make ultimate efforts to ensure our students obtain global perspective, knowledge and skills. The collaborations with Vienna University and Columbia University would serve for this end.”