Associate Professor Deva appointed to United Nations Working Group on Business & Human Rights

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We are pleased to announce that the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) has appointed Dr Surya Deva, Associate Professor of CityU School of Law, as the Asia-Pacific representative of the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. He will formally take up this position from 1 May 2016.

The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights was established by the HRC in 2011 to promote the dissemination and implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Special Procedures of the HRC – which are either an individual (called “Special Rapporteur”) or a Working Group composed of five members – are independent human rights experts with mandates to advise and report annually to the HRC, an inter-governmental body within the UN system responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. While appointing mandate-holders, the HRC takes into account (a) expertise; (b) experience in the field of the mandate; (c) independence; (d) impartiality; (e) personal integrity; and (f) objectivity.

Deva is a leading scholar specializing in Business and Human Rights (BHR), Corporate Social Responsibility, India-China Constitutional Law, and Sustainable Development. He has published extensively in these areas, and also advised states, multinational corporations and civil society
organizations on various BHR-related issues. He is one of the founding Editors-in-Chief of the Business and Human Rights Journal (Cambridge University Press), and sits on the Editorial/Advisory Board of the Netherlands Quarterly of Human Rights and the Vienna Journal on International Constitutional Law. In 2014, Deva was elected a Member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Constitutional Law.

On his appointment to the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, Deva said: “I am both honored and excited about this new role. I hope to continue working to humanize business and improve access to justice for victims of corporate human rights abuses.”