CityU Held Opening Ceremony for Chinese Judges Programmes

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9 November 2017

The School of Law, CityU and the Centre for Judicial Education and Research, CityU have jointly held the Opening Ceremony for the 8th Master of Laws Programme for Chinese Judges and the 11th Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior Judges on 12 October at the Connie Fan Multimedia Conference Room.

Many legal experts and professionals from the Mainland and Hong Kong participated in the Ceremony. Our officiating guests included Prof. HUANG Yongwei, President of the National Judges College; Prof. Jian LU, Vice President (Research and Technology); Mr. Wesley WONG, SC, Solicitor General, Department of Justice; Mr. LIU Chunhua, Deputy Director-General, Department of Law, Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR; Mr. WANG Chen, Deputy Director-General,
Prof. Geraint Howells welcomed the new cohort of judge students in his address. The recent SLW achievement which he credited to the collaborative efforts of both SLW staff and students has made him very proud. He hoped that the new cohort of LLM Chinese judge students can compare the difference between the two legal systems and exchange views on legal topics with the local legal community.

Prof. Lu Jian said that the nine-year cooperation between CityU and the National Judges College is very fruitful. Almost 600 judges from the mainland have been trained under the Chinese Judges Programme. It is our honour to provide such a platform to promote communication and understanding between the two legal systems.

Prof. Huang Yongwei acknowledged the fruitful outcome of the Chinese Judges Programmes. He pointed that CityU is one of the most influential overseas institute in the mainland court system. The National Judges College is planning to support more Chinese judges to receive this kind of judicial training in future.

Ms. Melissa Pang noted that the 20th Anniversary of HKSAR marks the success of the implementation of the “One Country, Two Systems”. It is predictable that the exchange and cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland would become ever more frequent. She thought that the Chinese Judges Programmes would help in building up
a sound legal framework that is indispensable for China’s rapid economic development.

Mr. Stephen Wong said under the “One Country, Two Systems”, a mutual understanding of the two legal systems is pivotal for both Hong Kong and the Mainland. The Centre for Judicial Education and Research focuses on forward-looking research on legal theory, and is a role model in judicial education. It is also a mission for legal experts and practitioners in both Hong Kong and Mainland to disseminate the knowledge and culture to the public and to understand the thoughts and needs of people from various backgrounds.

Ms. Li Kun, Judge of the Beijing No.3 Intermediate People’s Court and student representative of the 8th Master of Laws Programme for Chinese Judges, expressed her gratitude to the support from the National Judges College, CityU, and her family and friends. The study at CityU gives them a chance to better understand common law and to conduct in-depth conversations with common law experts. Guided by the Belt and Road Initiative, she looks forward to joining the force in bridging the two systems by drawing her knowledge and experiences from both legal systems.

Judge Xi Jianlin, President of the Shanghai Hongkou District People’s Court and representative of the 11th Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior Judges pointed out that communication can promote understanding, while understanding nurtures trust. Although they come from different jurisdictions, Judge Xi believes the values of law on social order and development is somehow the same.

Prof. Lin Feng delivered the vote of thanks. He is glad that the Mainland judicial system still keeps on sending potential judges to CityU to further their study in common law despite of the increasingly heavy workload in courts. He also expressed his sincere thanks to all the organizations that have offered help and assistance to the Chinese Judges Programmes.