The 10th Law Conference of Mainland, Hong Kong, Macao: Legal Issues of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development

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The 10th Law Conference of Mainland, Hong Kong, Macao: Legal Issues of the Belt and Road Initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Development was successfully held at the City University of Hong Kong on 21 September. Officiating guests attending the ceremony included Mr. ZHANG Mingqi (Vice President of China Law Society; Vice-Chairman, Law Committee of the 12th National People’s Congress Standing Committee), Mr. Andrew Liao, GBS, SC, JP (Member of Hong Kong Legal Forum, Vice-Chairman of the 12th National Committee of the CPPCC Subcommittee of Social and Legal Affairs), Ms. Leong Pou Ieng (Deputy Director, Legal Affair Bureau of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region), Ms. Maria Tam Wai-chu, GBM, GBS, JP (member of the Committee for the Basic Law of the National People’s Congress Standing Committee), Mr. Wesley Wong, SC, JP (Solicitor General, DOJ), Mr. Liu Chunhua (Deputy Director-General, Counsel, Department of Law, Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR) and Prof. Geraint Howells (Dean & Chair Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law, CityU).
The “One Belt, One Road” Initiative was first introduced in the fall of 2013. It has not only become China’s primary regional development strategy in 2015, but also its major foreign economic strategy between 2016 and 2020. On the other hand, under the success of the CEPA framework, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Great Bay Area framework further moves China’s national development into a new high. The Central Government “encourage[s] Hong Kong and Macao to play an important role in promoting cooperation in the Greater Pearl River Delta region, and advance the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and major trans-provincial cooperation platforms.”

Prof. Lin Feng, Associate Dean of SLW, CityU was the master of the opening ceremony. The Conference was composed of 3 sessions, including:

1. Issues relating to the construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and legal cooperation (Moderator: Dr. Guan Wenwei, Associate Professor, SLW and Prof. Zou Pingxue, Director, Basic Law Research Centre, Shenzhen University),
2. Issues relating to the legal cooperation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (Moderator: Mr. Samuel Wong, Former President, Hong Kong Institute of Arbitrators and Prof. Liu Zhengquan, School of Law, Wuhan University),
3. Issues relating to the legal cooperation among the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao (Moderator: Dr. Wang Shucheng, Assistant Professor, SLW and Mr. Alfred Leung, Partner, YTL LLP).

Almost 100 participants attended the Conference, among which, around 20 were Conference speakers and the rest were law scholars and legal practitioners from the mainland, Hong Kong and Macao. The Conference was in a tight schedule and the attendees actively participated in the discussion sessions.

The speech by Mr. Chow Charn Ki (Hong Kong Legal Forum), Mr. Yin Baohu (China Law Society) and Mr. Yi Zaicheng (Macau University of Science and Technology) concluded the Conference. The participants hailed the Conference as successful and fruitful.