

## Law Conference of Mainland, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan: Legal Issues Relating to the “One Belt, One Road” Strategy, 6-7 November 2015

— Pinky Choy



First introduced by China’s President Xi Jinping in the fall of 2013, and subsequently being written into China’s 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, “One Belt, One Road” (“OBOR”) — which refers to the “Silk Road Economic Belt” and the “21<sup>st</sup> Century Maritime Silk Road” — has not only become China’s primary regional development strategy in 2015, but also its major foreign economic strategy between 2016 and 2020.

While mainland China is the major player of the OBOR strategy, the whole region of Greater China, including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, will definitely also substantially benefit from this strategy. However, given the fact that the various countries along the “Belt” and “Road” have different legal systems, implementation of the OBOR strategy will inevitably lead to many legal issues.

Having considered that, on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2015, with the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (“RCCL”) of the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong as the organizer, our Law School, the China Law Society, the Hong Kong Legal Forum, and the Justice Affairs Department

of Macau SAR co-hosted the “Law Conference of Mainland, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan: Legal Issues Relating to the ‘One Belt, One Road’ Strategy” to provide a platform for legal experts to discuss various legal issues that the four regions may encounter in implementing the OBOR strategy, as well as the opportunities and challenges that the OBOR strategy may bring forth to the legal professions and legal systems of the four regions.

The conference was kicked off by the opening speeches of Mr. Zhang Mingqi (Vice-President of China Law Society; Vice-Chairman, Law Committee of the National People’s Congress), Mr. Andrew Liao SC (Hong Kong Legal Forum), Prof. Geraint Howells (Dean and Chair Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong), Ms Luo Jingping (Head of the Law Promotion Office, Macau Justice Affairs Department) and Mr. Zhou Yuanpei (President of Taiwan Kaohsiung Bar Association). Apart from these representatives of the co-hosts/participant regions, we have also invited Solicitor General of the HKSAR Mr. Wesley Wong SC, Director-General of the Legal Affairs Department of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR Mr. Liu Xinkui, as well as Legislative Councillor Hon Martin Liao to be the guests of honour of the opening ceremony, and Dr. Ding Chunyan of our Law School as the master of the ceremony. Mr. Wesley Wong SC delivered a keynote speech on behalf of the Secretary for Justice Mr. Rimsky Yuen SC for us after the opening ceremony.



Guests of Honour of the Opening Ceremony (from left to right): Ms Luo Jingping (Head of the Law Promotion Office, Macau Justice Affairs Department); Mr. Zhou Yuanpei (President of Taiwan Kaohsiung Bar Association); Mr. Liu Xinkui (Director-General of the Legal Affairs Department, Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the HKSAR); Mr. Zhang Mingqi (President of China Law Society; Vice-Chairman, Law Committee of the National People’s Congress); Mr. Andrew Liao SC (Hong Kong Legal Forum); Prof. Geraint Howells (Dean and Chair Professor of Commercial Law, School of Law, City University of Hong Kong); Mr. Wesley Wong SC (Solicitor General of the HKSAR); and Hon Martin Liao (Legislative Councillor of HKSAR).



Mr. Wesley Wong SC, Solicitor General of the HKSAR, delivered a keynote speech at the conference.

The whole conference was divided into the following four sessions: 1) How can Hong Kong and Macau make use of the advantages of their legal systems to be deeply involved in China's "One Belt, One Road" Strategy; 2) Legal Issues Relating to Investment and Trade in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan under the "One Belt, One Road" Strategy; 3) National Development Strategy and Opportunities and Challenges for the Legal Profession; and 4) Cross-Border Investment and Trade Dispute Resolution Service under the "One Belt, One Road" Strategy. Four staff members of our Law School, namely Dr. Chen Lei, Dr. Guan Wenwei, Dr. John Ho and Prof. Lin Feng were invited to be moderators of the four sessions.



Session 1 (from left to right): Prof. Zou Pingxue; Dr. Qiu Tingbiao; Dr. John Ho Kong Sang; Dr. Wang Yu; Mr. Yin Baohu.



Session 2 (from left to right): Mr. Zhao Xiangyang; Mr. Du Jiaqu; Dr. Yi Zaicheng; Prof. Zhao Hongrui; Mr. Jiang Junlu; Prof. Mo Shijian; Dr. Guan Wenwei.





Session 3 (from left to right): Mr. Xie Guoyun; Mr. Ge Lei; Mr. Ma Wei; Mr. Thomas So; Mr. Douglas Lam SC; Prof. Lin Feng.



Session 4 (from left to right): Prof. Li Mingde; Mr. Ho Junhao; Mr. Francis Law; Dr. Chen Lei; Mr. Philip Yang.

Over forty invited guests, including legal scholars, legal practitioners, mediators and arbitrators, coming from the Greater China regions, together with near one hundred audience, participated in this conference. The atmosphere of the conference was very stimulating. Participants enthusiastically joined the discussion of issues of common concerns.

Given the tight schedule of the first day of the conference, many people did not have the chance to express their opinions and many issues had not been thoroughly discussed. Due to these reasons, the second day of the conference aimed at opening up the floor for further discussion and reflection on various issues that were discussed on the previous day.



This one and a half day conference was closed by the closing speeches of Director of the Academic Exchange Centre of Chinese Legal Science Mr. Yin Baohu, Mr. Andrew Liao SC and Director of the RCCL and Associate Dean of our Law School Prof. Lin Feng. Participants hailed the conference as fruitful and a great success.



Closing Ceremony (from left to right): Mr. Andrew Liao SC; Prof. Lin Feng; and Mr. Yin Baohu.