

Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law Self-Evaluation Report

12 May 2025

Bullet Points Summary

- The CCCL is among the oldest research institutes in the world dedicated to Chinese and comparative law studies..
- In the last five years, the CCCL has hosted numerous international conferences, workshops, academic seminars, and distinguished lectures, uniting scholars, law students, policymakers, and practitioners globally. These initiatives have greatly enhanced the vibrant research atmosphere at CityUHK Law and have directly supported the School of Law in fulfilling and surpassing the RAE's research environment criteria component.
- One of the notable recent projects, which is completed in April 2025, is the Histories of International Law in China, a collaboration among three top law schools for studying the Chinese and global perspectives on the history of international law in China. It is the first project of its kind in terms of the international dimensions and global collaboration concerned, bringing together top scholars on international law and history from the United States, Europe, and Asia. The research output of which is a forthcoming book titled *All Under Heaven? Histories of International Law in China* edited by Ignaico de la Rasilla, Jiangyu Wang, and Congyan Cai, be included in the prestigious History of International Law Series of Oxford University Press (OUP) in 2025.
 - o The research project is also a result of internal collaboration among CCCL members. Professor Lin Feng authored a chapter on the status of Hong Kong in international law from the colonial era to the present under the One Country Two Systems.
 - o It is worth noting that this research project filled a gap in the literature regarding the history of international law in China. The turn to history and the study of historiography in international law have become global trends in international legal studies over the past two decades. In response to this intellectual movement, Oxford University Press created its prestigious "History of International Law Series," which selectively publishes the best works in this

area. The inclusion of this volume in OUP not only testifies to the quality and significance of the research project but also establishes a historical landmark on its own, as this is the first comprehensive research on China and international law published by a leading international publisher. It historically integrates the study of the history of international law in China into the international mainstream and positions CityUHK Law/CCCL as one of the hubs for comparative studies in the history of international law globally.

- Another recently completed project was a collaboration between two core members of the RCCL (Professors Lin Feng and He Tianxiang) with Guangdong Provincial Higher People's Court (commissioned by the Supreme People's Court of China) on judicial protection of well-known trademarks in the Greater Bay Area. The research output has been published by one Journal of the National Judge's College which will be relied on by Guangdong Higher People's Court to issue a set of guidelines for courts in Guangdong to follow in the foreseeable future. This will be a good example of research impact case for the future RAE.
- Based on the aforementioned project, the CCCL hosted approximately 10 distinguished lectures, inviting the world's top scholars in history and international law to present comparative perspectives at CityUHK Law. This included Professors Martti Koskeniemi, David Armitage, Frédéric Megret, Randall Lesaffer, Jacques deLisle, Cai Congyan, and Qu Wensheng others. This lecture series tremendously improved the profile of the CCCL as a hub for comparative international law studies.
- The CCCL also hosted two major research events on legal harmonisation in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), one of which is a collaborative project with the Guangzhou Institute of GBA, one of China's top think tank led by Professor Zheng Yongnian, and the Global Policy Institute of Durham University (with which a MoU scheduled to be signed in September 2025). This ongoing research project aims to produce a research report together with a special issue to provide a legal blueprint for the convergence of laws and institutions in the region.
- The CCCL has two significant forthcoming international conferences in 2025. One is the Asian Law and Economic Association (AsLEA) 2025 Annual Conference, convened by Professor Lauren Yu-hsin Lin, CCCL's Associate Director. It is the most prominent academic conference on law and economics in Asia, bringing together senior and young scholars from around the world to discuss cutting-edge issues on how legal

and economic frameworks can support sustainable development, resilience, and social well-being across Asia's rapidly transforming landscape.

- Another significant 2025 event will be the Private Law Conference on Covid-19 and its Impact on the Changing World of Law, convened by CCCL Associate Director Professor Liu Qiao, to discuss how to manage the impact of unforeseen events on contractual obligations between leading scholars and practitioners from UK, Europe, Hong Kong, Chinese mainland and other parts of Asia.
- For the future, the CCCL will continue to advance research in comparative commercial law, comparative international law, and comparative law and policy.
- Please refer to the Report for more details.

Table of Contents

1. *Introduction*
 2. *Academic Events, Collaborations, and International Networks*
 3. *Building Bridges: Practice, Research, and Scholarly Connections Across Generations*
 4. *Members' Research Achievements and Impacts*
 5. *Research Grants*
 6. *Outside Leadership and Service: Advancing Legal Excellence Beyond Academia*
 7. *Future Plan*
 8. *Conclusion*
- Appendix: Major Held and Future Events*

1. Introduction of the CCCL

Established in 1994, the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (“CCCL” or “the Centre”) is an interdisciplinary research institute affiliated with the School of Law at the City University of Hong Kong (“CityUHK”). It is one of the most prestigious and well-established institutions for the study of Chinese and comparative law worldwide.

In line with the City University of Hong Kong's policy, the CCCL operates as a membership-based organization, allowing for a maximum of seven core members. The primary role of the CCCL is to serve as a research platform that provides institutional support to its core members, affiliated members, and other colleagues from the School of Law, thereby enabling them to enhance their research and secure grants. The CCCL largely accomplishes its objectives through the research, publications, and grants undertaken and secured by its members.

As one of the world's earliest research centres dedicated to Chinese and comparative legal studies, the CCCL focuses on both foundational and contemporary issues in these fields. The Centre's mission is to expand human knowledge and enhance societal well-being through research in Chinese and comparative law. It fosters an understanding of diverse legal systems by promoting academic exchanges and research. The Centre values doctrinal, theoretical, empirical, and comparative research, and encourages interdisciplinary studies across various fields, including law, economics, politics, history, culture, philosophy, technology, and natural sciences. Significantly, it aims to build a bridge between legal research and policy research, addressing practical policy issues to positively influence policymaking and improve human welfare. Furthermore, the Centre is actively involved with local communities in Hong Kong, offering capacity-building initiatives and promoting the rule of law in Hong Kong, China, and the broader region.

In the past four years or so, the CCCL's research strategy has been focusing on promoting the Centre's international and regional profile in the study of comparative commercial law, comparative international law (with a focus on Chinese approach to international law in the global context), and legal integration and harmonization in the Greater Bay Area in a comparative context. Through these research activities, the CCCL has, on the one hand, continued to promote and solidify its position as a research hub on comparative law in the region, and, on the other hand, tremendously increased its ties with Chinese research institutions on both legal and policy studies.

It is worth noting that the CCCL serves as the editorial office for The Chinese Journal of Comparative Law (CJCL), a leading international publication focusing on both Chinese law and broader comparative law studies, published by Oxford University Press. CCCL Director Wang Jiangyu and Associate Director Liu Qiao were instrumental in founding the journal in 2013 and have been serving as its Joint Editors-in-Chief since 2019.

It is also important to highlight that, up to this point, the CCCL has accomplished all its achievements with minimal expenses. The Centre employs only one paid Research Assistant and has organized many events either online or by sharing costs with partners.

The upcoming sections provide a brief summary of the CCCL's accomplishments over the past few years, particularly since 2020, focusing on its academic events and collaborations, the research activities and impacts of its members, and the grants and recognitions it has received.

2. Academic Events, Collaborations, and International Networks

As a dedicated research centre, the CCCL is integrated within the CityUHK School of Law's collective setting, resources, culture, and support systems that promote and nurture scholarly inquiry and academic excellence. The CCCL has played a significantly valuable role in enhancing the research atmosphere of both the School and the University. As can be seen in the evaluation report submitted for 2023-2024 (which, however, does not encompass all activities since 2020), the CCCL has organized dozens of academic conferences, workshops, seminars, and roundtables, resulting in substantial publications and research impact.

To highlight a few examples of some of the significant events:

- Symposium on the application of the CISG to the HKSAR (August 2020), leading to a report authored by CCCL members Liu Qiao and Wang Jiangyu which was substantially adopted by the Hong Kong LegCo in making Hong Kong's law on joining the CISG.
- International Symposium on "The Rule of Law in Chinese Foreign Affairs" (November 2020), resulting in a special issue in the Chinese Journal of Comparative Law (published by Oxford University Press), which also contributed to the making of the Foreign Relations Law in China.

- International Symposium on “Sources of Law, Authoritarian Legality, and Chinese Jurisprudence” which produced a special issue on the Chinese Journal of Comparative Law (July 2021)
- International Conference on “Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven?” jointly organized by the CCCL, Fudan Law School and Wuhan Law School(10-11 November 2023). This is papers presented in the conference are included in a special volume to be published by Oxford University Press in 2025, with CCCL Director Wang Jiangyu as one of the Editors of the book.
- International Conference on Legal and Institutional Cooperation in the Greater Bay Area, jointly organized with The Guangzhou Institute of GBA (27-28 January 2024), which will lead to a special issue in a journal as well as a Report to outline the policy blueprint for GBA’s legal and institutional integration.
- The 8th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Legal Symposium (7-8 March 2024), jointly organized with the Guangdong Law Society, was one of the biggest event with more than a hundred participants who are researchers, practitioners and legal officers from Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. It greatly promoted the profile of the CityUHK School of Law as a centre of gravity in the legal research on legal and institutional convergence in the GBA.

Over the past five years, the CCCL has organized and hosted numerous academic seminars, drawing internationally renowned scholars and emerging young researchers to CityUHK for intellectual exchange, thereby generating a global impact. A particularly notable event is the Distinguished Lectures Series on "History of International Law: Chinese and Global Perspectives," held by the CCCL in the latter half of 2022 and throughout 2023. This series included lectures by some of the world's leading experts in international law and history, who explored China's interaction with international law from both global and comparative viewpoints, rather than solely from a Chinese perspective. Esteemed contributors included Professors Martti Koskenniemi, David Armitage, Frédéric Mégret, Randall Lesaffer, Jacques deLisle, Ignacio de la Rasilla, Cai Congyan, Qu Wensheng, among others. In 2023, the CCCL also established the CCCL Young Scholar Forum, offering young and promising researchers a platform to present and discuss their work.

The CCCL is also one of the founding members on behalf of the School of Law as the 2023-established Asian Corporate Law Forum (ACLF), co-sponsored by the European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI) and hosted at the Singapore Management University (SMU).

3. Building Bridges: Judiciary Practice, Research, and Scholarly Connections Across Generations

Engagement with Senior Chinese Judges

The CCCL has made significant contributions through its active engagement with senior Chinese judges and its dedication to nurturing the next generation of legal scholars. These efforts reflect the Centre's commitment to bridging gaps across disciplines, generations, and legal communities.

One of CCCL's key achievements has been fostering connections between the judiciary in Mainland China and the legal community in Hong Kong. Through impactful judicial education programs co-organized with the PRC Supreme People's Court, the National Judges College, and the CityUHK School of Law, the CCCL has created invaluable opportunities for knowledge sharing and collaboration.

Since 2022, the CCCL, in partnership with CityUHK's Centre for Judicial Education and Research Cum Identification of Hong Kong Law (JERI), has launched the annual "Meeting Chinese Judges: Courts, Adjudicators, and Judicial Life" program. This initiative invites five senior Chinese judges each year to engage directly with students and staff at the School of Law. These judges share profound insights into the workings of the Chinese judiciary, offering first-hand accounts of their experiences, challenges, and perspectives. The program provides students and faculty with a rare opportunity to deepen their understanding of the Chinese legal system and its practical operations, fostering an appreciation for the nuances of cross-border legal practice.

In addition to this program, the CCCL has organized workshops and seminars that bring together Chinese judges and Hong Kong-based legal researchers. These events create a collaborative environment for discussing critical topics such as judicial reform, comparative legal systems, and cross-border legal challenges. For instance, the 2023 Workshop on Judicial Reform in China: Looking Back, Looking Forward facilitated the exchange of ideas on improving judicial efficiency and transparency. Similarly, the JERI-CCCL Seminar: Meeting

Chinese Judges: Courts, Adjudicators, and Judicial Life explored the evolving role of courts and judges in an increasingly dynamic legal landscape.

These initiatives have significantly strengthened cross-border legal collaboration while fostering a nuanced understanding of the unique characteristics of each legal system. By creating platforms for open dialogue and knowledge exchange, the CCCL has made substantial contributions to judicial education and reform in the region.

Advancing Legal Excellence: Training and Professional Development

Beyond its collaboration programs with the National Judges College, CCCL members have maintained an active role in advancing legal education and professional development. CCCL Members have been invited by Mainland governments, judicial departments, and law societies on numerous occasions to provide training for Mainland legal practitioners. His training sessions have spanned various regions, including Shenzhen, Guizhou, Xi'an, and Shaanxi, as well as specialized topics such as international commercial arbitration.

These engagements underscore CCCL members' pivotal role in enhancing the professional development of Mainland legal practitioners and exemplify CCCL's commitment to promoting legal excellence and fostering cross-border collaboration. Through such initiatives, the CCCL continues to solidify its role as a bridge between academics, practitioners, and policymakers, making tangible contributions to the advancement of the legal profession.

Nurturing the Next Generation: The Young Scholar Forum

Beyond academic discourse, the Young Scholar Forum has a broader mission: to connect junior scholars with peers and seasoned academics who share their research interests. By sparking collaborations and bridging generations of scholars, the CCCL ensures that knowledge flows seamlessly across the academic spectrum. This fosters a thriving community of legal thinkers united by a shared passion for inquiry and innovation.

The CCCL's dedication to the Forum reflects its vision of fostering an inclusive and collaborative academic environment. It demonstrates a heartfelt commitment to mentoring young talent, championing innovation, and inspiring the next wave of legal thinkers to make meaningful contributions to the fields of Chinese, Comparative, and International Law. Through this initiative, the CCCL is cultivating future leaders in legal academia while creating a legacy of intellectual generosity and collaboration.

Over the past few years, the CCCL has hosted and facilitated numerous seminars, featuring promising scholars and practitioners from across the globe. These seminars have spanned diverse fields, including Chinese law, comparative law, international economic law, intellectual property rights, legal history, and emerging technologies like AI and cryptocurrency regulation. Participants from Asia, Europe, and North America joined to explore pressing legal issues such as trade disputes, cross-border investments, climate law, and the evolution of international legal frameworks. By bringing together multidisciplinary expertise, the CCCL has cemented its position as a global hub of legal scholarship and policy discourse, fostering a deeper understanding of legal challenges in an increasingly interconnected world.

By building bridges between practice, research, and scholarly communities across generations, the CCCL continues to shape the future of legal scholarship and education. Its enduring efforts reflect a commitment to advancing legal knowledge, fostering collaboration, and addressing the evolving challenges of the global legal landscape.

4. CCCL Members' Research Activities and Impacts

The CCCL is fortunate to have a group of internationally distinguished scholars who excel in their respective fields. Through their expertise, CCCL has made remarkable contributions to legal scholarship, reflected in an extensive array of high-impact publications. Core members have published in leading journals such as *The Journal of Legal Studies*, *Columbia Business Law Review*, and *Fordham Environmental Law Review*, as well as in books by prestigious publishers including Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and Hart Publishing. Notably, CCCL Director Professor Wang Jiangyu's article on dispute settlement in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) was recognized as Oxford University Press's Best Comparative Law Paper of 2020. Professor Julien Chaisse has been named for two consecutive years (including 2024) among Stanford University's top 2% most highly cited scientists. Professor Fang Meng received the Best Paper Award at the 2024 Young Scholar Workshop on International Economic Law, while Professor Martin Lai and graduate Leona Zhang won the Readers' Vote Prize at the 2025 Concurrences Antitrust Writing Awards.

The research conducted by CCCL members has also had a direct impact on policymaking. For instance, a research report on the CISG by Professors Liu Qiao and Wang Jiangyu contributed to shaping the Hong Kong Department of Justice's proposal to adopt the United Nations

Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG), which ultimately led to the enactment of an ordinance by the Legislative Council of the HKSAR. Additionally, Professor Lauren Yu-Hsin Lin's research on Chinese corporate governance has been cited by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Delaware Court of Chancery, further demonstrating the tangible policy influence of CCCL's scholarship.

Beyond academia and policymaking, CCCL members are regularly invited to present papers and deliver speeches at internationally renowned conferences and events. Their work has been cited or quoted by leading global media outlets such as *The Economist*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, *The South China Morning Post*, *The Straits Times*, *Mingpao*, and *Lianhe Zaobao*. These achievements underscore CCCL's position as a prominent authority in legal scholarship, thought leadership, and international collaboration.

5. Research Grants

The CCCL, as an institute, is not eligible to apply for research grants but has consistently played a constructive role in assisting its members in successfully securing research funding. Over the years, CCCL members have obtained numerous grants across various funding schemes, reflecting the Centre's commitment to fostering impactful and innovative research. This support has enabled core members to pursue significant projects that advance legal scholarship and address pressing societal issues.

The following highlights some of the key research grants awarded to CCCL members, demonstrating their scholarly excellence and the Centre's dedication to supporting their endeavors:

Collaborative Research Fund (CRF):

- Professor Wan Wai Yee: Secured a prestigious CRF grant of HK\$3.1 million—a remarkable achievement in the field of law, where research grants rarely exceed HK\$1 million.

General Research Fund (GRF) Grants (2024–25):

- Professor Peter Chan: "*Judicial Expansion of Criminality for Stability: State Control of Rural Resistance to Land Acquisition in China*" (HK\$490,000).

General Research Fund (GRF) and Early Career Scheme (ECS) Grants (2023–24):

- Professor Peter Chan: “*Has the Plea Leniency Procedure Reshaped China’s Criminal Justice System? – An Empirical Enquiry*” (HK\$490,000).
- Professor Mandy Fang Meng: “*China’s Environmental Governance of Plastic Pollution: Mission (Im)possible?*” (HK\$471,500).

General Research Fund (GRF) and Early Career Scheme (ECS) Grants (2022–23):

- Professor Chunyan Ding: “*Does the Gender of Judges Matter? An Empirical Study of Chinese Divorce Lawsuits involving Domestic Violence*” (HK\$357,388).
- Professor Martin Lai Sin Chit: “*Incentivizing Private Antitrust Enforcement to Promote Leniency Applications: Experimental Evidence*” (HK\$603,000).
- Professor Lauren Lin Yu-Hsin: “*Corporate Compliance and Big Data Governance: China’s Corporate Social Credit System*” (HK\$525,664).
- Professor Wang Shucheng Peter: “*Judicial Approach to Restricting Religious Freedom of Protestant House Churches in China*” (HK\$1,073,895).

General Research Fund (GRF) Grants (2021–22):

- Professor Peter Chan: “*An Empirical Assessment of Legal Mobilization by Criminal Defence Weiquan Lawyers in China*” (HK\$478,700).
- Professor Qiao Liu: “*Addressing Impediments or Hardship to Contract Performance: A Comparative Study of the Common Law in Hong Kong and Chinese Law*” (HK\$512,904).

General Research Fund (GRF) Grants (2020–21):

- Professor Chunyan Ding: “*Two Tales of Legal Mobilization: NGO-led and Procuratorate-led Environmental Public Interest Litigation in China*” (HK\$794,883).

General Research Fund (GRF) and Early Career Scheme (ECS) Grants (2019–20):

- Professor Peter Chan: “*Protecting Employees from Unfair Dismissal in Chinese Courts: An Empirical Study on Serious Breach Dismissal Cases*” (HK\$424,000).

- Professor Chunyan Ding: “*Consumer Citizen Suits against Food Safety Violations in China*” (HK\$455,606).
- Professor Lauren Lin Yu-Hsin: “*The Politics of Corporate Governance in Chinese Firms*” (HK\$720,415).
- Professor Wang Shucheng Peter: “*Restrictive Right to Religious Freedom of Protestant House Churches in China*” (HK\$696,922).

Through this constructive role, CCCL has amplified its members' ability to undertake research that not only enriches legal academia but also informs policy and practice, further cementing its position as a leading hub for legal scholarship.

6. Leadership and Service: Advancing Legal Excellence Beyond Academia

Beyond its scholarly achievements, the Centre’s members exemplify a deep commitment to leadership and service in the broader legal and policy communities. Through their external appointments and engagements, CCCL’s members contribute significantly to advancing legal excellence, shaping public policy, and fostering collaboration between academia and practice.

This year alone, Professor Lauren Yu-Hsin Lin, the Associate Director of CCCL, was appointed as the President of The Asian Law and Economics Association (AsLEA) and joined the editorial board of the prestigious International Review of Law and Economics (IRLE) as an Associate Editor, highlighting her influence in advancing interdisciplinary research in law and economics. Similarly, Professor Peter Chan was reappointed as a member of the Steering Committee on Rule of Law Education by the Department of Justice and recognized as an Associate Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL). These prestigious appointments underscore their commitment to bridging academic expertise with impactful public service.

Looking back at previous years, many CCCL members have taken on prominent roles as adjudicators, mediators, arbitrators, Independent Non-Executive Directors, advisors to government think tanks, and commentators for the media. These appointments highlight their practical engagement and significant influence in legal dispute resolution, policymaking, and public discourse. Such roles exemplify the Centre’s dedication to serving society through leadership that extends far beyond academia.

By undertaking influential public service roles and participating in international forums, the CCCL continues to bridge the gap between academic scholarship and practical application,

making a tangible impact on society and the legal profession. These contributions reflect the Centre's unwavering commitment to advancing legal thought and fostering meaningful change.

7. Future Plan

Research Focus and Projects

For the next few years, in response to the School of Law's call for research centres to have strategic focuses, the CCCL will continue to advance its research profile in three areas:

- Comparative Chinese and commercial law;
- Comparative international law, with a focus on the Chinese approach to international law and diplomacy;
- Comparative Chinese and public law, through collaborations with other the School of Law's other research centres such as JERI.

Building on the expertise of its members and Hong Kong's distinctive role in the Greater Bay Area under the One Country, Two Systems framework, the CCCL aims to enhance and expand its research capabilities in 'law and policy.' A specific goal is to organize academic events and produce scholarly work and policy reports focused on achieving legal and institutional integration in the Greater Bay Area. Through this initiative, the CCCL seeks to establish a 'comparative advantage' in interdisciplinary research on law and policy.

In terms of specific projects, in the next two years, the CCCL is planning to organize conferences and symposiums on the following topics respectively: GBA legal and institutional convergence; comparative contract law; empirical research in law and economics; China's new Company Law; and, a joint event on the development of case law in China, in collaboration with JERI.

The CCCL is also in the process of developing a research project in collaboration with the Trade, Investment & Innovation Division of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Global Policy Institute (GPI) of Durham University, UK to conduct comparative research on the international regulation of state-owned enterprises.

Research Grants and Other Sources of Funding

The CCCL will continue to support the efforts of its members to apply for both UGC and non-UGC sponsored research grants, and make efforts to seek research donations.

Institutional Structure Reform

The CCCL will establish an international advisory committee by inviting seven distinguished scholars in Chinese and comparative law to serve as committee members, providing strategic guidance to the CCCL and advising on the Centre's research and capacity-building activities.

Additionally, the CCCL will introduce a 'Chinese Law and Practice Programme'. This initiative will involve the formation of a Professional Advisory Body comprising five senior Chinese judges alongside five professionals, including lawyers and law officials from both Hong Kong and mainland China. The aim is to strengthen the connections between legal research and practice in these regions.

International Networks

The CCCL will continue to further develop its global networks. Specifically, a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed with Durham's GPI in September 2025, focusing on collaborative research that examines law and policy from the viewpoints of the UK, Europe, Hong Kong, and China.

8. Conclusion

We would like to conclude that, through its comprehensive approach encompassing significant academic activities, impactful publications, substantial grants, and strategic international collaborations, the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law has solidified its reputation as a premier research institution. CCCL continues to advance legal scholarship, influence policy-making, and promote cross-regional legal cooperation, positioning itself as a vital hub for understanding and shaping the comparative law landscapes of China, Hong Kong, and beyond. These achievements reflect CCCL's commitment to advancing legal research, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue, and influencing policy development on a global scale.

Appendix: Details of Major Engagement, Collaboration and Impacts

1. Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven?
2. The 8th and 9th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium (第八、九屆粵港澳法學研討會)
3. CCCL & GIG: International Conference on Legal and Institutional Cooperation in the Greater Bay Area
4. Recommendations by Professor Liu Qiao and Professor Wang Jiangyu Adopted in a LegCo Legislative Proposal on the Application of CISG in Hong Kong
5. 2025 Forthcoming: Asian Law and Economics Association (AsLEA) 2025 Annual Conference
6. 2025 Forthcoming: COVID-19 and its Impact on the Changing World of Law

1. Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven?

Background

The historical study of international law has witnessed growing global interest, leading to the emergence of an expansive body of literature chronicling its development. Prominent works, such as the *Series in the Theory and History of International Law* by Oxford University Press and *Studies in the History of International Law* by Brill, have contributed to this flourishing discourse. However, much of this scholarship remains entrenched in Eurocentric perspectives, limiting a holistic understanding of the global forces shaping international law.

This gap highlights the critical need to incorporate diverse narratives, particularly those rooted in China's historical, political, and cultural experiences. Responding to this imperative, the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL) at the City University of Hong Kong School of Law (CityUHK SLW) partnered with Wuhan University Law School and Fudan University Law School to organize the Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven? conference, held from 10–11 November 2023.

The conference is the first in a series of events aimed at exploring the intersection of China's history and international law. The second conference in this series was successfully hosted by Fudan University Law School in mid-2024, continuing the momentum of the first event and broadening the scope of research and discussions. These conferences collectively serve as a platform for fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and advancing scholarship on China's unique contributions to the history of international law.

This initiative underscores the significance of integrating Chinese perspectives into global legal discourse, challenging entrenched historical paradigms, and promoting a deeper understanding of the diverse forces shaping international law in the modern era.

Introduction to the Engaging Parties

Wuhan University Law School:

The Wuhan University Law School is one of China's most prestigious law faculties, with a long-standing reputation for excellence in legal education and research. Renowned for its

expertise in international law, Wuhan University has consistently been at the forefront of advancing scholarly discourse on China's role in the global legal order.

The law school is home to the Institute of International Law, recognized as a national key research institute by the Chinese Ministry of Education. This institute has played a pivotal role in shaping China's participation in international legal systems, making significant contributions to academic research, legal practice, and policymaking. Wuhan University Law School's focus on historical and comparative studies provided the conference with deep insights into China's legal history and its evolving relationship with international law. By participating in this collaborative effort, Wuhan University enriched the academic discussions with its extensive experience in both theoretical and practical dimensions of international law.

Fudan University Law School:

The Fudan University Law School located in Shanghai, is a leading institution recognized for its cutting-edge research and innovative approach to legal education. With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary studies, FDU SLW has emerged as a key player in advancing the understanding of China's legal systems and their interaction with global legal norms.

Fudan University Law School has built a distinguished reputation for its work in legal history and international law, fostering research that bridges traditional Chinese thought and modern legal principles. The law school is particularly committed to promoting dialogue between Chinese and Western legal traditions, making it an ideal partner for the *Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven?* conference series.

In mid-2024, Fudan University hosted the second instalment of this conference series, expanding the scope of research and discussions initiated by the first conference. This event further cemented Fudan University's role as a leader in the study of China's historical engagement with international law, contributing new perspectives and fostering academic exchange on a global scale.

Together, CCCL, Wuhan University Law School, and Fudan University Law School brought their respective strengths to the conference, ensuring a rich and diverse exploration of China's role in the history of international law. Their collaboration highlights the importance of

interdisciplinary and cross-institutional partnerships in addressing complex legal and historical questions.

Conference Highlights

The Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven? conference was an intellectually rich event that sought to address the absence of diverse perspectives in the historical study of international law, with a particular focus on China's unique contributions to the field. By bringing together a distinguished group of scholars, the conference explored the complex interplay between China's historical experiences and its evolving role in shaping international law.

At the heart of the conference was the effort to challenge dominant Eurocentric narratives in the study of international legal history. Scholars critically examined how China's interactions with the Western-dominated international legal order were shaped by key historical moments, such as the Hague Peace Conferences, the Tokyo Trials, and the early 20th-century diplomatic engagements. These discussions went beyond the surface-level exploration of events, delving into how China's political, cultural, and intellectual context influenced its responses to international legal norms.

A major emphasis of the conference was on the intellectual contributions of Chinese legal scholars and diplomats who played pivotal roles in shaping China's legal identity on the global stage. Figures such as Zhou Gengshen, Li Haopei, and Wang Tieya were discussed in detail, not just as contributors to China's legal history but as important actors in the broader development of international law. Their influence was positioned within the context of China's legal reform and modernization, highlighting how their work bridged traditional Chinese values with emerging global legal principles.

The conference also examined the role of ideology in shaping China's approach to international law, particularly during transformative historical periods such as the interwar years, the Cold War, and the Cultural Revolution. Presentations explored how Marxist-Leninist ideas, combined with China's own historical and cultural traditions, informed its engagement with concepts like sovereignty, non-intervention, and territorial integrity. These discussions provided deep insights into how China's political and ideological priorities influenced its stance towards international law during periods of both cooperation and conflict.

Another significant theme was the historical process of translating international legal norms into the Chinese context. This involved an exploration of how Chinese jurists and intellectuals adapted Western-origin concepts of international law to align with Chinese political philosophies, such as Confucian ideals and the concept of Tianxia (“All Under Heaven”). This unique process of adaptation underscored the creative and dynamic nature of China's engagement with the global legal order, presenting it not as a passive recipient of international norms but as an active participant in their reinterpretation and evolution.

The conference moved beyond historical analysis by emphasizing the continuing relevance of China's historical experiences for contemporary international law. Discussions explored how China's legal history informs its current role as a key player in global governance. Issues such as China's approach to multilateralism, its participation in international organizations, and its strategies for addressing global challenges like trade disputes and environmental governance were framed within the broader historical context presented during the conference.

By combining historical inquiry with contemporary relevance, the Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven? conference underscored the importance of integrating diverse perspectives into the study of international legal history. This event was not merely a retrospective exercise but a forward-looking initiative that sought to illuminate China's evolving legal identity and its potential contributions to the future development of international law. The insights generated during the conference will not only serve as a foundation for future research and dialogue, but also deepen the understanding of China's role in international law. By challenging entrenched Eurocentric narratives, the event fostered a more inclusive and balanced approach to global legal history. These contributions are expected to inspire further exploration of China's unique historical trajectory and its broader implications for the future of international law and governance.

Collaborative Synergies

The Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven? conference series exemplifies the power of collaboration among some of the most prestigious institutions in the field of legal research. This initiative brought together CCCL at the CityUHK SLW, Wuhan University Law School, and Fudan University Law School, creating a robust intellectual network that bridges geographical, cultural, and institutional divides.

The synergy between these leading institutions reflects their shared commitment to advancing a more inclusive understanding of international legal history, one that moves beyond traditional Eurocentric narratives. Each institution contributed its unique strengths and expertise, creating a dynamic and interdisciplinary environment for the exploration of China's historical engagement with international law.

The collaboration between the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL) at CityUHK, Wuhan University Law School, and Fudan University Law School demonstrated the remarkable potential of academic synergy in advancing the study of international law from a more inclusive and diverse perspective. Each institution brought its unique strengths to the table, creating a dynamic partnership that bridged expertise, methodologies, and perspectives.

CCCL at CityUHK, as the host of the first conference, played a pivotal role in initiating this critical dialogue. With its strong emphasis on comparative legal studies and fostering cross-border collaboration, CCCL provided a platform for scholars to engage in meaningful discussions that extended beyond academic inquiry into practical and global legal challenges. Its interdisciplinary approach allowed the conference to address complex questions about China's historical engagement with international law within a broader global context.

Wuhan University Law School, home to the Institute of International Law, a national key research centre, brought unparalleled expertise in international law and historical studies. With its long-standing reputation as a leader in examining China's role in the global legal system, Wuhan University enriched the conference by offering deep insights into China's interactions with Western legal traditions during transformative historical periods. Its focus on historical and comparative approaches highlighted key moments when China actively engaged with, resisted, or adapted international legal norms, providing a nuanced understanding of China's evolving relationship with global governance frameworks.

Building on the foundation established by CCCL and Wuhan University, Fudan University Law School hosted the second conference in mid-2024, further expanding the scope and depth of the discussions. Known for its innovative and interdisciplinary research, Fudan emphasized the importance of bridging Chinese and Western legal traditions, fostering a dialogue that explored how historical lessons can shape contemporary legal practices. The university's contributions shed light on how China's historical experiences, including its unique political

philosophy and cultural values, inform its modern legal identity and approach to international governance.

The collaboration of these three leading institutions exemplifies the power of academic partnerships in addressing complex legal and historical questions. Together, they created a platform that not only enriched the understanding of China's historical role in international law but also pointed to the relevance of these insights for contemporary global legal challenges. This partnership stands as a model for future interdisciplinary and cross-institutional collaborations, advancing research that is inclusive, innovative, and globally significant.

International and Regional Impact

The Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven? conference series has had a profound regional impact by fostering a deeper understanding of China's role in shaping international law. By addressing China's unique historical trajectory and its interactions with global legal norms, the series has expanded the discourse on international legal history within Asia and beyond. This initiative has strengthened the region's academic network, encouraging collaboration among scholars and institutions across East Asia.

The conference also highlighted the relevance of China's legal history to contemporary regional issues, such as sovereignty, multilateralism, and cross-border governance. It provided a platform for scholars to engage in critical discussions that resonate with the challenges faced by countries in the region, including the balance between tradition and modernity, the reinterpretation of historical legal norms, and China's evolving role in global governance. Ultimately, the series has helped to establish the region as a hub for innovative and inclusive research into international law, ensuring that Asia's perspectives are better represented in the global discourse.

Research Outcome

The Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven? conference series has generated groundbreaking insights into the intersection of China's historical experiences and the development of international law. By challenging long-standing Eurocentric narratives, it has illuminated how China has not only engaged with but also contributed to the evolution of international legal systems. The research underscored the intellectual contributions of Chinese

jurists, diplomats, and scholars, while also revealing the influence of traditional Chinese philosophies, such as Tianxia on shaping global legal norms and frameworks.

A pivotal outcome of the series is the forthcoming publication of the book *Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven?*, co-edited by distinguished scholars. This volume represents a transformative step in the study of international legal history, shifting the focus from Western-centric perspectives to a more inclusive and diverse understanding of global legal development. By highlighting China's unique historical trajectory and its interactions with international law, the book will provide ground-breaking insights into how China's political, cultural, and historical experiences have influenced its engagement with international legal norms, offering a more balanced and comprehensive view of the forces shaping international law.

Beyond documenting the scholarship presented during the conference series, the book will serve as a foundational resource for researchers, policymakers, and academics. It aims to promote interdisciplinary dialogue, challenge established paradigms, and inspire further exploration of diverse global perspectives in international law. As a milestone publication, the volume will not only advance the academic discourse on China's role in international law but also encourage a broader reimagining of international legal history in its global context.

Conclusion

The *Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven?* conference series has redefined the study of international legal history by integrating diverse perspectives and emphasizing the importance of China's historical and cultural context. This initiative not only deepened the understanding of China's contributions to international law but also catalyzed a shift toward a more inclusive and balanced global narrative.

What sets this series apart is the close collaboration among CCCL at CityUHK, Wuhan University Law School, and Fudan University Law School. This partnership goes far beyond co-organization, representing a cohesive effort to pool intellectual resources, regional insights, and diverse methodologies. Together, these institutions cultivated a dynamic and interdisciplinary platform that enabled a comprehensive and nuanced exploration of China's role in international law.

The series has also underscored the growing importance of academic partnerships in addressing global legal challenges. By fostering collaboration, it has elevated the discourse on China's legal history and set a precedent for future partnerships across Asia and beyond. This tight-knit synergy offers a model for similar initiatives that prioritize inclusivity, diversity, and interdisciplinary research in the study of international law.

As the series continues through its second conference and forthcoming publications, it promises to enrich the global discourse on international law and China's evolving role within it. By bridging historical inquiry with contemporary relevance, the Histories of International Law in China: All Under Heaven? conference series highlights the transformative potential of academic collaboration, setting a benchmark for how institutions can work together to advance global understanding and challenge outdated paradigms in law and governance.

2. The 8th and 9th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium (第八、九屆粵港澳法學研討會)

Background

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium has become a significant platform for fostering legal cooperation and governance in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA). Since its establishment, the symposium has brought together legal professionals, academics, and policymakers to address the legal challenges and opportunities shaping the region's development. As a key national strategy promoted by President Xi Jinping, the GBA represents a critical area of focus for advancing regional integration and modernization.

The 8th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium, held on March 7–8, 2024, at City University of Hong Kong, focusing on the theme of "High-Level Legal Governance to Ensure the High-Quality Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the New Era." Guided by the China Law Society and co-hosted by the Guangdong Province Law Society, the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong, and the Faculty of Law at the University of Macau, the symposium convened experts from diverse fields to discuss pressing legal issues.

The discussions during the 8th symposium highlighted key areas such as the implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, pathways for legal cooperation, market integration, and cross-border data governance. Participants from academia, government, and legal practice shared insights on collaborative legislation, intellectual property protection, civil and commercial litigation mechanisms, and solutions to cross-border challenges. These sessions provided practical recommendations aimed at strengthening the legal frameworks needed for the GBA's high-quality development.

Following the success of the 8th symposium, preparations are underway for the 9th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium, which will be held next month. The upcoming event will build on the progress of previous discussions and address emerging legal issues critical to the region's future. By continuing to foster dialogue and collaboration, the 9th symposium aims to create innovative solutions and enhance the GBA's role as a model for regional integration and legal governance.

As we host the 9th edition of the symposium, we look forward to further strengthening regional ties and contributing to the advancement of the GBA as a globally competitive economic and legal zone.

Introduction to the Engaging Parties

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium is a collaborative effort between several key institutions dedicated to advancing legal cooperation and governance in the GBA. Each participating organization plays a vital role in shaping the discussions and driving actionable outcomes for high-quality development in the region.

The China Law Society, as the guiding body of the symposium, provides strategic oversight and ensures that the event aligns with national priorities. The China Law Society is the preeminent national organization for legal research, academic exchange, and policy development in China. Established as a guiding body for the legal profession, it plays a pivotal role in promoting the rule of law, fostering legal innovation, and advancing the harmonization of legal systems across regions. As the central platform for legal scholars, practitioners, and policymakers, the China Law Society serves as a bridge between academic research and the practical needs of national governance.

The society is committed to fostering legal research, promoting the rule of law, and supporting the integration of legal systems across regions.

The Guangdong Province Law Society represents the legal community of Guangdong Province, bringing valuable insights into the region's unique legal challenges and opportunities. Its involvement ensures that the symposium addresses core issues affecting the province's integration with Hong Kong and Macau.

The School of Law at City University of Hong Kong serves as both an organizer and host, leveraging its expertise in comparative and international law to facilitate cross-border discussions. Through its Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL), the school fosters academic collaboration and provides a platform for exploring innovative legal solutions.

The Faculty of Law at the University of Macau contributes its deep understanding of Macau's legal framework and its integration within the "One Country, Two Systems" policy. Its

participation ensures that the symposium addresses Macau's role in the GBA's legal and economic development.

Additional support comes from key stakeholders, including the Law Society of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Bar Association, whose representatives offer practical perspectives on legal practice and policy implementation. Their contributions help bridge the gap between theoretical discussions and real-world applications.

Together, these parties bring a wealth of expertise and perspectives, making the symposium a dynamic and inclusive platform for addressing the GBA's legal and institutional challenges. Their collaboration underscores the importance of regional partnerships in achieving the shared goal of creating a cohesive, innovative, and globally competitive Greater Bay Area.

Conference Highlights

The 8th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium served as a vital forum for advancing legal governance in the GBA, emphasizing the role of robust legal frameworks in ensuring sustainable and high-quality regional development. The conference centered on fostering deeper collaboration among the three jurisdictions while addressing their unique legal challenges and opportunities.

A central theme of the symposium was the ongoing effort to enhance legal integration within the GBA under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. The discussions underscored the significance of balancing regional autonomy with the need for legal and institutional alignment to facilitate seamless cooperation. This effort is critical, as it seeks to harmonize the diverse legal systems of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau while preserving their individuality.

Another major focus of the symposium was the exploration of legal pathways to support market integration across the GBA. Participants highlighted the importance of unified legal standards and collaborative legislation in enabling the free flow of goods, services, and capital. These discussions carried immense significance, given the GBA's strategic role in China's economic modernization and its ambition to become a globally competitive economic zone.

The symposium also addressed the pressing issue of cross-border data governance, a topic of growing importance in the digital age. Experts tackled the challenges of ensuring data security and privacy while enabling the efficient flow of information across jurisdictions. This issue is

particularly relevant for the GBA, which is home to a burgeoning technology sector that relies on data-driven innovation. The insights generated during these discussions are expected to guide the development of legal frameworks that can strike a balance between security and innovation.

In addition to these forward-looking discussions, the symposium also explored innovative approaches to legal cooperation within the GBA. Ideas such as mutual recognition of legal decisions, the creation of shared legal service platforms, and joint legislative initiatives were proposed as ways to reduce legal fragmentation and promote deeper integration. These initiatives hold the potential to transform the GBA into a model of regional legal collaboration.

By addressing these critical issues, the symposium highlighted the role of legal governance as a cornerstone of the GBA's development. The insights shared during the event not only provided practical guidance for overcoming current challenges but also laid the groundwork for future collaboration. The discussions reinforced the importance of the GBA as a testing ground for innovative legal solutions that could serve as examples for other regions in China and beyond.

The 8th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium demonstrated the transformative potential of legal integration and cooperation in driving regional development. By fostering dialogue among legal scholars, practitioners, and policymakers, the event contributed to shaping the GBA into a cohesive, innovative, and globally competitive region. The significance of the symposium extends beyond the immediate discussions, offering a vision of how legal governance can underpin sustainable and inclusive regional growth.

Collaborative Synergies

The 8th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium brought together an exceptional assembly of legal scholars, practitioners, and policymakers, underscoring the event's high-level significance as a platform guided by the China Law Society. As the nation's foremost legal academic and professional body, the China Law Society's leadership elevated the symposium's status, ensuring its alignment with national priorities and fostering collaboration across the GBA.

The symposium emphasized the unique synergies that emerge from the integration of three distinct legal systems under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. With the Guangdong Province Law Society, CityUHK SLW, CCCL, and the University of Macau's Faculty of Law co-hosting the event, the discussions reflected both the diversity and the shared aspirations of the GBA's legal communities. This collaboration demonstrated the strength of cross-regional partnerships in addressing complex legal challenges and advancing institutional innovation.

Participants explored pathways for harmonizing legal frameworks to support the GBA's development as a globally competitive economic zone. The high-level nature of these discussions, facilitated under the auspices of the China Law Society, ensured that the insights generated were both academically rigorous and practically actionable. By uniting stakeholders from academia, government, and the private sector, the symposium created a dynamic forum for cultivating solutions that balance regional autonomy with the need for legal alignment.

The event also underscored the strategic importance of leveraging the GBA as a testing ground for innovative legal mechanisms. Discussions on topics such as cross-border data governance, intellectual property protection, and market integration highlighted the collaborative potential of the GBA to pioneer legal frameworks that could serve as national and global models.

Regional Impact

CityUHK SLW and CCCL have played an essential role in advancing legal governance and fostering integration within the GBA. By consistently organizing the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium, CCCL has established itself as a driving force in shaping the region's legal, economic, and institutional landscape.

A defining impact of CCCL's work lies in its ability to foster greater alignment among the three distinct legal systems under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. By convening experts, policymakers, and practitioners to address legal challenges and opportunities, CCCL has contributed to creating a roadmap for balancing regional autonomy and institutional coordination. This effort is essential for cultivating a seamless environment for trade, investment, and innovation that underpins the economic development of the GBA.

CCCL's active engagement in organizing this high-level symposium has also elevated the international standing of CityUHK SLW. As a host of this prestigious event, CityUHK has

demonstrated its ability to serve as a platform for thought leadership, academic collaboration, and impactful legal research. This role has further cemented CityUHK's reputation as a global leader in Chinese and comparative law, showcasing its influence in addressing pressing legal issues and advancing the GBA's development.

Beyond economic and legal impacts, CCCL has driven discussions on the social and institutional dimensions of regional integration. By promoting legal cooperation, collaborative legislation, and mutual recognition of legal decisions, it has fostered trust and strengthened unity among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau. This collaborative approach not only enhances regional governance but also positions the GBA as a model for addressing shared challenges, including environmental protection and digital transformation.

Through its proactive research initiatives and thought leadership, CCCL ensures that the insights generated during these conferences have a lasting impact. The publication of research outcomes and their dissemination among policymakers, legal professionals, and academics further solidify CCCL's role in shaping the GBA's legal framework and driving its high-quality development.

In summary, CCCL and CityUHK SLW have played a transformative role in advancing the GBA's integration and legal innovation. Their leadership in organizing the symposium and fostering cross-border collaboration has not only enhanced the region's development but also strengthened CityUHK's brand as a hub for academic excellence and legal expertise, making a lasting impact on the GBA's trajectory as a cohesive and globally competitive region.

Research Outcomes

The symposium attracted a remarkable range of high-quality submissions from experts across various fields of law. These papers addressed critical topics such as legal integration under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework, cross-border dispute resolution, intellectual property protection, and regulatory mechanisms for data governance. The breadth and depth of the submissions highlighted the symposium's standing as a focal point for thought leadership and scholarly collaboration in the GBA.

During the conference, outstanding papers were formally recognized and awarded for their academic excellence and practical relevance. This recognition not only celebrated the authors'

contributions but also underscored the vital role of research in addressing the legal complexities and opportunities within the GBA.

To maximize the impact of these contributions, the awarded papers, along with other notable submissions, will be compiled into a dedicated publication and made publicly available, including an announcement on the China Law Society's homepage. This collection will serve as an essential resource for policymakers, legal professionals, and academics, offering valuable insights and actionable frameworks to guide the ongoing development of legal systems in the region. By disseminating these findings, the symposium ensures that its research outcomes make a meaningful contribution to shaping the GBA's legal landscape and supporting its high-quality development.

Conclusion

Under the guidance of the China Law Society, the symposium has reaffirmed its position as a premier platform for fostering legal synergies, advancing high-impact research, and promoting meaningful, high-level dialogue among legal professionals, scholars, and policymakers. The event has consistently demonstrated the transformative potential of collaboration in addressing the unique cross-border legal challenges within the GBA while paving the way for innovative solutions that support the region's sustainable and integrated development.

At the forefront of these efforts is the CityUHK and its CCCL. As a consistent organizer of this high-level conference, CCCL has played a pivotal role in not only facilitating dialogue across the GBA's diverse jurisdictions but also in providing a platform for actionable insights and practical solutions. Through its leadership, CCCL has demonstrated its ability to serve as a bridge between academic research and policy implementation, creating a space where complex legal challenges can be addressed through collaboration and innovation.

The symposium highlights CCCL's commitment to advancing legal scholarship and strengthening CityUHK's reputation as a global leader in Chinese and comparative law. By engaging stakeholders from Guangdong, Hong Kong, Macau, and beyond, CCCL has firmly positioned itself as a hub for intellectual exchange and a key driver in developing the GBA's legal framework.

The event has addressed critical issues such as legal harmonization under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework, cross-border dispute resolution, intellectual property protection, and data governance. These discussions have not only tackled immediate challenges but also laid a foundation for long-term regional growth. By fostering mutual trust and legal cooperation, the symposium has promoted deeper integration across the GBA's three distinct legal systems.

The impact of CCCL's leadership and the symposium extends beyond the event itself. The research outcomes and frameworks generated will continue to guide policymakers, legal professionals, and academics in shaping the GBA into an innovative and resilient legal region. CCCL's steady role in organizing this conference has also significantly enhanced CityUHK's global reputation as a forward-thinking institution addressing real-world challenges.

Looking ahead, the collaborative efforts spearheaded by CCCL, CityUHK, and the China Law Society will continue to influence the GBA's legal landscape. These initiatives will drive regional integration and innovation, ensuring the GBA's position as a leader in global economic and legal governance.

3. CCCL & GIG: International Conference on Legal and Institutional Cooperation in the Greater Bay Area

Background

The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) initiative represents a crucial strategy aimed at integrating two Special Administrative Regions—Hong Kong and Macau—with nine Guangdong cities into a globally competitive economic zone. Envisioned as an innovative hub for fostering economic growth across China and Asia, the GBA aspires to lead in technology, finance, and trade. However, the region's diversity presents significant challenges, particularly in harmonizing legal and institutional frameworks across jurisdictions with distinct legal systems, governance structures, and economic priorities.

These challenges underscore the importance of conducting in-depth research on the GBA. As one of the most ambitious regional integration initiatives in the world, the GBA offers a unique opportunity to study the interplay between law, economics, and governance. Research on the GBA is not only vital for addressing practical issues such as cross-border legal complexities, regulatory alignment, and market integration but also for generating insights that can inform other regional integration efforts globally. By examining the GBA's successes and challenges, researchers can develop strategies to enhance legal harmonization, foster institutional cooperation, and support sustainable economic growth.

Recognizing the importance of these efforts, the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL) at the City University of Hong Kong School of Law and the Guangzhou Institute of the Greater Bay Area (GIG) partnered to organize the International Conference on Legal and Institutional Cooperation in the Greater Bay Area. This conference series, which includes two events—the first held in Hong Kong from January 27 to 28, 2024, and the second planned for the summer of 2025—aims to create a platform for interdisciplinary dialogue and practical solutions.

The mission of the conference was to foster meaningful discussions and collaborations on legal and institutional cooperation within the GBA. Its key objectives included:

- Addressing the complexities of aligning diverse legal systems across the region.

- Promoting the harmonization of laws and institutional frameworks to facilitate cross-border business operations.
- Providing a platform for academics and practitioners to share research and best practices.
- Informing policy development to advance the GBA's vision of seamless economic integration.

By prioritizing research on the GBA, the conference aims to contribute to the region's development as a model of regional integration. The insights generated will not only support the GBA's growth but also provide valuable lessons for other cross-border initiatives worldwide.

Introduction to the Engaging Parties

Guangzhou Institute of Greater Bay Area (GIG):

The GIG serves as a leading research institute dedicated to fostering economic, legal, and institutional integration within the GBA. Established in response to the evolving domestic and international landscape, the GIG is positioned at the forefront of China's reform and opening-up efforts, with the GBA representing a critical driver of modernization and common prosperity.

In recognition of its strategic importance, the GIG has embraced a multi-faceted mission: first, to contribute to the economic development of Guangzhou; second, to promote the deeper integration of Guangzhou within the GBA; and third, to support the integration of Hong Kong and Macau into the broader development framework of mainland China. The successful construction of the GBA is not only vital to the region but also holds far-reaching implications for the nation as a whole, positioning GIG with a profound historical responsibility.

Beyond its immediate objectives, the GIG is committed to shaping the narrative of Guangzhou and the GBA, enhancing China's global influence and soft power. With a focus on long-term sustainable development, the institute strives to provide insightful policy recommendations that serve both governmental and business decision-makers. By bridging research and practical applications, the GIG plays an instrumental role in advancing the GBA's economic ambitions and reinforcing its status as a model of integration and innovation.

Conference Highlights

1. Keynote Speech by Professor Zheng Yongnian

Professor Zheng Yongnian, an internationally renowned scholar and the Board Director of the Guangzhou Institute of the Greater Bay Area (GIG), delivered a compelling keynote address that set the tone for the conference. His analysis highlighted the legal and institutional challenges faced by the GBA, contextualized within broader global issues such as geopolitics, economic nationalism, and trade protectionism.

In his address, Professor Zheng emphasized the urgent need to address Hong Kong's increasing isolation by integrating both internal and external systems. He highlighted the importance of fostering openness, collaboration, and cross-border cooperation to strengthen the GBA's economic and institutional framework. Professor Zheng also underscored the region's potential to leverage its unique strengths to overcome systemic challenges, calling for coordinated efforts to ensure that the GBA evolves into a cohesive and globally competitive economic zone.

By providing a clear vision for the GBA's future, Professor Zheng's keynote set a forward-looking and action-oriented tone for the conference, inspiring meaningful discussions and innovative strategies to address the region's most pressing challenges.

2. Diverse Panel Discussions Covering Key Themes

The conference featured six thematic panels focusing on critical issues related to the GBA's legal, institutional, and economic integration. Each panel provided innovative perspectives and practical solutions:

- **Panel 1:** Examined constitutional, regulatory, and institutional issues, emphasizing legislative collaboration and institutional alignment.
- **Panel 2:** Addressed market integration and institutional convergence, drawing inspiration from the European Union's common market.
- **Panel 3:** Focused on private and commercial law harmonization, including regulatory frameworks for emerging technologies like generative AI.
- **Panel 4:** Explored finance, data, and law, addressing cross-border securities regulation and digital governance.
- **Panel 5:** Highlighted sustainable development, discussing low-carbon transitions, renewable energy markets, and green economic growth.

- **Panel 6:** Concluded with reflections on the importance of regional collaboration and strategies for advancing legal and institutional integration.

3. Global and Regional Perspectives, Practical Applications, and Collaborative Impact

The conference seamlessly blended global and regional perspectives, leveraging Hong Kong's position as a financial and legal hub to address the GBA's unique challenges. Comparative discussions, such as lessons from the European Union's market integration, provided valuable insights into the GBA's development while highlighting the importance of aligning local strategies with global standards.

A defining feature of the conference was its focus on practical applications. Concrete policy recommendations were presented on vital topics, including legal harmonization, generative AI regulation, cross-border data governance, and institutional convergence. These actionable insights bridged the gap between theoretical exploration and real-world implementation, offering governments and businesses clear pathways for progress.

The partnership between the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL) and the Guangzhou Institute of the Greater Bay Area (GIG) played a crucial role in fostering a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach. By integrating legal, economic, and technological perspectives, the conference addressed the GBA's challenges holistically, ensuring a balanced and forward-thinking dialogue.

In addition, the event provided a vital platform for networking and collaboration. Strong connections were established among academics, policymakers, and practitioners, fostering partnerships for future initiatives. The second conference, scheduled for 2025 in Guangzhou, will build on these relationships, ensuring sustained progress in addressing the GBA's legal and institutional integration.

Collaborative Synergies

The collaboration between CCCL, CityUHK, and GIG was pivotal to the success of the International Conference on Legal and Institutional Cooperation in the Greater Bay Area. By uniting CCCL's academic rigor with the GIG's regional expertise, the event achieved a well-rounded approach to addressing both the theoretical and practical dimensions of legal and institutional cooperation in the GBA.

1. **Knowledge Exchange:** The partnership facilitated a dynamic exchange of ideas, showcasing CCCL's strengths in comparative legal studies and CityUHK's commitment to interdisciplinary research. These contributions were complemented by the GIG's in-depth understanding of the GBA's governance and economic structures, ensuring that the discussions were both insightful and actionable.
2. **Global Reputation of CityUHK and CCCL:** The conference reinforced the global brand of CityUHK and CCCL as leaders in advancing innovative legal research and fostering cross-border collaboration. CityUHK's position as a premier academic institution in Asia, coupled with CCCL's expertise in Chinese and comparative law, highlighted their ability to address pressing regional and international challenges.
3. **Thought Leadership:** The conference further solidified CCCL's and CityUHK's reputations as thought leaders in promoting legal harmonization and institutional integration. Their ability to convene leading scholars, policymakers, and practitioners underscored their pivotal role in shaping the discourse on the GBA's development.
4. **Multi-Stakeholder Engagement:** The event emphasized CityUHK's and CCCL's commitment to bridging academia, policy, and practice by fostering dialogue among diverse stakeholders, including academics, legal practitioners, policymakers, and business leaders. This approach reflected their dedication to creating meaningful impact beyond academia.

International and Regional Impact

The conference had a profound impact on the Greater Bay Area's (GBA) ongoing development, contributing significantly to its vision of becoming a seamless economic and legal zone. Its outcomes are expected to influence policymaking, particularly in critical areas such as legislative harmonization, cross-border dispute resolution, and market integration. Recommendations for developing multi-level coordination mechanisms and unified legal frameworks have the potential to address existing disparities between Hong Kong, Macau, and Guangdong, thereby facilitating smoother economic and legal cooperation across the region.

The event also made notable contributions to academic advancement by stimulating further research on pivotal issues such as trade secret harmonization, generative AI regulation, and the role of financial law courts in cross-border activities. The academic papers and insights generated during the conference are anticipated to be published in leading journals, enriching

the scholarly discourse on regional legal and economic integration while solidifying the GBA's standing as a hub for academic excellence.

Discussions at the conference also provided actionable strategies for economic integration, inspired by models such as the European Union's common market. These insights are expected to enhance the GBA's competitiveness as a unified economic zone. Panels addressing cross-border trade, venture capital, and the digital economy emphasized the region's potential to emerge as a global leader in innovation and commerce. Such discussions highlighted the transformative role that market integration can play in solidifying the GBA as a powerhouse for technological and economic growth.

The conference further strengthened networks among academics, policymakers, and practitioners, fostering connections that will drive future collaboration. These partnerships are expected to shape the region's trajectory toward greater integration and innovation. The planned second conference in Guangzhou in the summer of 2025 is set to build on the networks and momentum generated, ensuring that the discourse and initiatives spearheaded by this event continue to evolve and expand.

Moreover, the conference underscored the GBA's global relevance by positioning it as a model for regional integration. The discussions provided valuable lessons for other cross-border economic zones worldwide, showcasing the GBA's ability to address global challenges such as trade protectionism and geopolitical tensions through innovation and cooperation. By tackling these pressing issues, the event highlighted the GBA's role as a key player in shaping the future of regional and international collaboration. The conference ultimately reinforced the GBA's influence on the global stage, cementing its position as a beacon for economic modernization and legal integration.

Research Outcome

A significant academic outcome of the International Conference on Legal and Institutional Cooperation in the Greater Bay Area is the planned publication of selected papers presented during the conference series. These papers will undergo a rigorous review process and will be published in the *Asia Pacific Law Review*.

This commitment to publishing the conference papers not only amplifies the academic impact of the event but also ensures its practical relevance. The selected works will provide policymakers, legal practitioners, and academics with actionable insights to address the complex legal and institutional challenges within the Greater Bay Area.

By serving as a platform for disseminating high-quality research, the Asia Pacific Law Review will contribute to advancing scholarly discussions and promoting informed decision-making in the region. These publications will further solidify the conference's legacy as a critical resource for fostering legal harmonization and institutional integration in the GBA.

Conclusion

The International Conference on Legal and Institutional Cooperation in the Greater Bay Area successfully fulfilled its mission of fostering dialogue and collaboration on legal harmonization within the GBA. By uniting distinguished scholars, policymakers, and practitioners, the event not only contributed to the academic study of Chinese and comparative law but also provided practical insights to advance the GBA's vision of seamless economic integration. The collaboration between CCCL and GIG exemplified the power of interdisciplinary and cross-border partnerships in addressing complex legal and institutional challenges.

As the GBA continues to develop, the outcomes of this conference will undoubtedly play a vital role in shaping its legal and institutional landscape, ensuring a robust foundation for sustainable growth and innovation in the region.

4. Recommendations by Professor Liu Qiao and Professor Wang Jiangyu Adopted in a LegCo Legislative Proposal on the Application of CISG in Hong Kong

The ground-breaking research conducted by Professor Liu Qiao, Associate Director of the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL) and Professor Wang Jiangyu, Director of CCCL has made a significant and direct impact on the legislative landscape of Hong Kong. Their detailed legal and economic analysis of the application of the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods (CISG) in Hong Kong was extensively relied upon by the Department of Justice (DoJ) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in drafting its official proposal to the Legislative Council (LegCo). This proposal aims to enact legislation allowing Hong Kong to join the CISG, which currently restricts contracting parties to sovereign states.

The DoJ's proposal incorporates a wide range of arguments and recommendations made by Professors Liu and Wang, presented in their submission to the DoJ during a public consultation process. Their submission not only provided a robust legal framework for Hong Kong's accession to the CISG but also highlighted the critical economic and legal benefits for Hong Kong as an international business and legal hub. The proposed legislation, which is expected to be enacted in due course, positions Hong Kong to enhance its global competitiveness in cross-border trade by aligning with international standards and unifying sales laws.

The adoption of the Liu/Wang recommendations demonstrates how cutting-edge academic research can directly shape public policy and contribute to the development of Hong Kong's legal infrastructure. Their work underscores the importance of leveraging international legal instruments like the CISG as a tool to strengthen Hong Kong's position as a preferred jurisdiction for international commercial transactions. By advocating for the application of the CISG, the research has paved the way for greater legal certainty, reduced transaction costs, and enhanced trust among international trading partners.

One of the most compelling aspects of the Liu/Wang contribution is their emphasis on the critical role of the "One Country, Two Systems" framework in facilitating Hong Kong's accession to the CISG. Recognizing the unique legal and constitutional relationship between Hong Kong and Mainland China, the professors argued that for the CISG to fully realize its potential economic benefits, sales contracts between parties in Hong Kong and Mainland China must also be governed by the unifying rules of the CISG. This would ensure consistency and

predictability in cross-border trade disputes, fostering smoother economic integration and deeper legal cooperation between the two jurisdictions.

To achieve this, Professors Liu and Wang proposed a bilateral arrangement between Hong Kong and Mainland China. This arrangement would provide a legal basis for the binding effect of the CISG and ensure its uniform application, regardless of whether disputes are adjudicated in Hong Kong or Mainland China. The professors further noted that this approach is not only plausible but also natural within the context of the “One Country, Two Systems” framework. Under this model, Hong Kong and Mainland China are treated as two distinct jurisdictions in both Hong Kong’s legal framework and the domestic law of the People’s Republic of China. This dual-jurisdictional approach provides a unique opportunity for Hong Kong to serve as a bridge between international legal norms and the Mainland’s legal system, reinforcing its role as a global hub for legal and business services.

The legislative proposal, which integrates these visionary recommendations, is expected to deliver transformative outcomes. It will allow local businesses and international investors to benefit from the harmonized rules of the CISG, reducing legal uncertainty and fostering a more predictable business environment. This is particularly vital in Hong Kong’s current economic climate, where bolstering its attractiveness as a centre for international trade and dispute resolution is more important than ever.

Furthermore, the Liu/Wang recommendations have a far-reaching impact beyond Hong Kong. By advocating for a mutually beneficial arrangement with Mainland China, their research highlights how Hong Kong can act as a model for bridging legal and economic systems under complex geopolitical frameworks. This not only enhances Hong Kong’s reputation as a forward-looking jurisdiction but also sets a precedent for leveraging international legal frameworks to address regional challenges in trade and commerce.

In essence, the contributions of Professors Liu Qiao and Wang Jiangyu to the DoJ’s proposal represent a landmark example of how academic research can directly influence public policy and legislative development. Their work has not only shaped the future of Hong Kong’s legal framework but has also reinforced its role as a global leader in international trade law and dispute resolution. The legislative proposal to join the CISG is more than a technical legal reform—it is a strategic move that solidifies Hong Kong’s position as a vital player in the global economy.

The adoption of Professors Liu Qiao and Wang Jiangyu's recommendations also underscores the pivotal role of CCCL in driving impactful legal scholarship and shaping public policy. As one of Asia's leading institutions for comparative legal research, CCCL has consistently demonstrated its ability to bridge academic theory with practical policy solutions. By facilitating this landmark contribution, CCCL has reinforced its reputation as a hub for innovative legal thought and interdisciplinary collaboration. CCCL's involvement highlights its commitment to advancing Hong Kong's legal development in alignment with global standards, while addressing the unique challenges posed by the "One Country, Two Systems" framework. This achievement not only bolsters CCCL's influence in the academic world but also solidifies its standing as a key player in shaping Hong Kong's role as a global leader in international trade law and dispute resolution.

The DoJ's proposal to LegCo, which incorporates the Liu/Wang recommendations, can be accessed at [LegCo Document](#). This document serves as a testament to the transformative power of academic research in shaping public policy and advancing Hong Kong's legal and economic development on the international stage.

5. 2025 Forthcoming: Asian Law and Economics Association (AsLEA) 2025 Annual Conference

Background

The Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL) at City University of Hong Kong (CityUHK) has played a pivotal role in advancing academic research and fostering collaboration in the field of law and economics. As the host of the Asian Law and Economics Association (AsLEA) 2025 Annual Conference, CCCL and CityUHK are reaffirming their commitment to driving intellectual exchange and providing a platform for cutting-edge scholarship that addresses pressing legal and economic challenges in Asia.

This year, CCCL's Associate Director, Professor Lauren Yu-Hsin Lin, has been nominated to serve as the President of AsLEA, further highlighting the centre's influence in shaping the association's direction and its contributions to the advancement of law and economics research in the region. This nomination underscores the recognition of CCCL's pivotal role in fostering impactful academic discourse and strengthening global collaborations in the field.

Since its inception in 2005, AsLEA has become a leading forum for scholarship in law and economics, and CityUHK's role as host institution for this milestone 20th Anniversary Conference underscores its growing influence in this interdisciplinary field.

The 2025 Annual Conference, organized by CCCL and the School of Law (SLW) at CityUHK, carries the theme "Law, Economics, and Sustainability in Asia." This theme aligns with CityUHK's strategic focus on addressing contemporary global challenges, particularly how legal and economic frameworks can support sustainable development, resilience, and social well-being across Asia's rapidly transforming landscapes. By hosting this conference, CityUHK SLW and CCCL are further solidifying their reputation as hubs for impactful scholarship and interdisciplinary dialogue.

Over the years, AsLEA has successfully held conferences in major Asian cities, including Tokyo, Taipei, Beijing, and Seoul, with each event leaving a lasting impact on regional scholarship. The selection of CityUHK as the host for the 20th Anniversary Conference highlights the university's leadership in advancing law and economics research. This conference will expand upon the university's tradition of facilitating ground-breaking discussions on topics such as artificial intelligence, intellectual property, antitrust law,

environmental law, corporate governance, and financial market regulation—issues of increasing relevance to Asia and beyond.

In addition to furthering academic research, the conference reflects CityUHK's commitment to fostering international collaboration. By bringing together leading scholars from across Asia, Europe, and North America, the event will encourage comparative studies and global partnerships, elevating CityUHK's standing as a key player in international academic networks.

The conference's innovative offerings, including a Methodology Workshop, an Editors' Workshop, and the inaugural AsLEA Best Paper Award for Junior Scholars, will provide significant opportunities for knowledge exchange, mentorship, and the development of future scholars. These initiatives are emblematic of CCCL's role not only in advancing research but also in nurturing the next generation of academics and thought leaders in law and economics.

This milestone conference, hosted by CCCL and CityUHK, represents a critical step in deepening the integration of law and economics research in Asia with global perspectives. It will reinforce CityUHK's position as a leading institution in shaping interdisciplinary approaches to legal and economic challenges, further contributing to the university's mission of academic excellence and societal impact.

Conference Highlights

The AsLEA 2025 Annual Conference marks two decades of AsLEA's contributions to advancing law and economics in Asia. This milestone event provides an opportunity to reflect on the association's achievements and its influence in shaping legal and economic frameworks across the region.

Keynote speeches will be delivered by Adriana Robertson, Donald N. Pritzker Professor of Business Law at the University of Chicago and Editor of the *Journal of Legal Studies*, and Yun-chien Chang, Jack G. Clarke Professor in East Asian Law at Cornell University and Editor of the *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*. These distinguished scholars will share valuable insights into the intersection of law, economics, and sustainability.

Pre-conference workshops on August 13 include a Methodology Workshop led by Professor Jennifer Arlen from New York University, focusing on experimental economics methods and their application in legal studies. The Editors' Workshop will feature editors from leading

journals, such as the Journal of Legal Studies and the Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, providing participants with practical advice on academic publishing and submission strategies.

This year's conference introduces the inaugural AsLEA Best Paper Award for Junior Scholars, which aims to recognize outstanding contributions by emerging researchers in law and economics. Winners will present their work at the conference, facilitating engagement with established experts in the field.

The conference theme, "Law, Economics, and Sustainability in Asia," highlights the growing importance of addressing global challenges through legal and economic frameworks that foster sustainable development, resilience, and social well-being. Discussions will focus on how these frameworks can adapt to Asia's rapidly evolving landscapes.

As the call for papers remains open until April 15, 2025, the AsLEA President and Organizing Committee are in the process of reviewing submissions to finalize the papers to be presented at the conference. This ensures a diverse and high-quality selection of research that reflects the latest developments in law and economics.

Introduction to the Engaging Parties

Asian Law and Economics Association (AsLEA)

AsLEA is a premier academic organization dedicated to fostering interdisciplinary research and dialogue at the intersection of law and economics in Asia and beyond. Established in 2005, AsLEA serves as a platform for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to exchange ideas, share research findings, and explore innovative solutions to pressing legal and economic challenges.

AsLEA's mission is to advance the understanding of how economic principles can inform and improve legal frameworks, policies, and decision-making. The association is committed to promoting rigorous, data-driven research that addresses critical issues such as regulatory reform, corporate governance, intellectual property, environmental law, and the broader interactions between law, markets, and society.

Over the years, AsLEA has cultivated a vibrant and inclusive community of researchers and professionals from diverse jurisdictions, including Asia, Oceania, Europe, and North America.

Its annual conferences, which have become a cornerstone of its activities, provide an invaluable forum for presenting cutting-edge research, engaging in comparative studies, and fostering long-term academic collaborations.

By bridging the gap between legal studies and economics, AsLEA continues to play a pivotal role in shaping the academic discourse and influencing policy-making across Asia. Its collaborative and interdisciplinary approach ensures that its contributions remain relevant and impactful in addressing the complex challenges of a rapidly changing world. The AsLEA 2025 Annual Conference exemplifies this mission, serving as a testament to the association's enduring legacy and its vision for the future.

International and Regional Impact

Asia is a region characterized by unparalleled economic dynamism, legal diversity, and regulatory complexity. With economies that range from emerging markets to global powerhouses, and legal systems that span common law, civil law, and hybrid frameworks, the region presents both extraordinary opportunities and significant challenges. Against this backdrop, the AsLEA 2025 Annual Conference aims to make a transformative impact on the development of law and economics across the region.

By hosting this prestigious event, CCCL seeks to leverage its expertise to address critical regional issues such as cross-border trade disputes, financial regulation, environmental sustainability, corporate governance, and the broader implications of global disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the lens of law and economics, the conference will provide innovative solutions to these pressing challenges, fostering a deeper understanding of how legal systems can drive economic resilience and sustainable development in the region.

CCCL's unique position as a hub for comparative legal research enhances the conference's ability to deliver impactful outcomes. One of the key contributions of CCCL to the conference is its ability to bridge academic research and practical policymaking. Through its partnerships with legal professionals, businesses, and policymakers, CCCL ensures that the research presented at the conference is not only intellectually rigorous but also directly relevant to real-world challenges. Policymakers and practitioners will benefit from actionable insights generated during the conference, enabling them to craft policies and strategies that address complex legal and economic issues with precision and foresight.

CCCL's role in hosting the conference also underscores Hong Kong's strategic importance as a global financial hub and a bridge between Mainland China and the wider world. As a city that operates under the unique "One Country, Two Systems" framework, Hong Kong exemplifies the interplay between diverse legal traditions and economic systems. CCCL will capitalize on this unique context to facilitate discussions on how Asian jurisdictions can innovate and adapt in response to global trends while maintaining regional stability and growth.

The conference's focus on interdisciplinary collaboration further amplifies its regional impact. By integrating law, economics, and public policy, CCCL promotes a holistic approach to solving complex issues. This interdisciplinary perspective is particularly valuable in addressing challenges such as supply chain disruptions, environmental crises, and financial instability, where legal and economic considerations intersect. CCCL's emphasis on interdisciplinary research ensures that the conference will generate solutions that are both practical and visionary, equipping stakeholders with the tools they need to navigate an increasingly uncertain world.

Through its leadership in hosting the AsLEA 2025 Annual Conference, CCCL aims to leave a lasting legacy on the academic and policy landscape of Asia. By fostering dialogue, advancing comparative research, and promoting actionable solutions, CCCL will not only strengthen the role of law and economics in addressing regional challenges but also position Asian legal systems as leaders in global innovation. This conference represents more than an academic gathering—it is a catalyst for change, driving the creation of legal frameworks that are resilient, adaptive, and equipped to meet the complexities of the modern era.

In doing so, CCCL reaffirms its commitment to shaping the future of law and economics in Asia, bridging gaps between jurisdictions, and inspiring a new generation of scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to collaboratively tackle the challenges of tomorrow. Through its leadership and vision, CCCL ensures that the AsLEA 2025 Annual Conference will not only advance academic discourse but also deliver tangible and transformative regional impact.

Collaborative Synergies

The AsLEA 2025 Annual Conference is committed to fostering collaborative synergies among scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from across Asia and other regions. By bringing together experts from diverse jurisdictions, the conference will promote comparative studies and the exchange of ideas across national and disciplinary boundaries.

A key aspect of these synergies lies in the interdisciplinary nature of law and economics. The conference will provide a forum for integrating empirical research, economic analysis, and legal theory, encouraging innovative approaches to addressing regional and global challenges. This interdisciplinary focus will help participants explore novel solutions that transcend traditional legal or economic paradigms, thereby enriching the academic and practical understanding of the field.

In addition, the conference seeks to strengthen long-term academic partnerships. By facilitating meaningful dialogue between established experts and emerging scholars, the event will cultivate a dynamic research community that is collaborative, inclusive, and forward-looking. Initiatives such as the AsLEA Best Paper Award for Junior Scholars further underscore the conference's commitment to nurturing the next generation of thought leaders in law and economics.

The conference's collaborative efforts are also designed to integrate regional insights into the global academic discourse. By welcoming contributions from scholars in Asia, Oceania, Europe, and North America, the event will ensure that the unique perspectives and challenges of Asian legal systems are represented on the world stage. This global engagement will not only elevate the visibility of Asian scholarship but also encourage mutual learning and the development of universally applicable solutions to shared challenges.

Research Outcomes

By submitting papers to the AsLEA 2025 Annual Conference, selected authors will be invited to present their work during the event, offering them the opportunity to share their insights with a distinguished audience of scholars, policymakers, and practitioners. For junior scholars attending the conference, recipients of the Best Paper Award will also be given the chance to deliver presentations on their research, further enriching the conference's intellectual discourse and showcasing the contributions of emerging talent in the field of law and economics.

In addition, outstanding papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication in an edited volume subject to satisfactory review. This ensures that the high-quality research generated by the conference reaches a wider global audience, contributing to the academic and practical development of law and economics. By providing a platform for both established and

junior scholars to share and publish their work, the conference reinforces its commitment to advancing impactful research and fostering academic excellence.

6. 2025 Forthcoming: COVID-19 and its Impact on the Changing World of Law

Background

The GRF project, titled “Addressing Impediments or Hardship to Contract Performance: A Comparative Study of the Common Law in Hong Kong and Chinese Law”, spearheaded by Professor Qiao Liu, the Associate Director of the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL), addresses one of the most pressing challenges in modern legal systems: how to manage the impact of unforeseen events on contractual obligations. In an era marked by global disruptions such as the regional and global financial crises, the US-China economic decoupling, and the COVID-19 pandemic, the performance of contracts across industries has faced unprecedented challenges. These disruptions have exposed vulnerabilities in existing legal frameworks, raising urgent questions about how to adapt and reform contract law to provide more effective remedies and protections for parties.

Through a comprehensive comparative analysis of the common law in Hong Kong and the contract law of Mainland China, the project investigates how these two distinct legal systems respond to supervening events. By examining legal doctrines, judicial decisions, and policy approaches in both jurisdictions, the research seeks to identify gaps, highlight best practices, and propose reforms that can enhance legal certainty, fairness, and efficiency in times of crisis.

The proposed conference forms an integral component of this critical research initiative. Designed to synthesize collective insights from leading scholars and practitioners, the conference will explore the profound transformations occurring in the legal domain as a result of these disruptive events. It will serve as a platform to present and critically evaluate key GRF research findings while engaging global experts to provide constructive feedback. This collaborative process is expected to enrich the GRF project, refine its conclusions, and expand its practical impact.

The conference’s central theme, “The Impact of COVID-19 and Similar Events on Private Transactions in a Fast-Changing World,” underscores the importance of addressing challenges posed by unforeseen disruptions. While the event will align closely with the GRF project’s focus, it will also broaden the discussion to encompass a wide range of legal issues beyond the project’s specific scope. By welcoming research that spans diverse jurisdictions,

methodologies, and perspectives, the conference seeks to foster a holistic understanding of how legal systems worldwide can respond more effectively to supervening events.

The importance of such research cannot be overstated. Unexpected disruptions—whether caused by pandemics, geopolitical tensions, or economic crises—pose significant risks to the stability and predictability of private transactions. Without adequate legal mechanisms to address these risks, businesses and individuals face heightened uncertainty, increased costs, and potential economic losses. By examining the intersection of contract law, public regulation, and economic realities, this research aims to provide actionable insights that can inform better policy-making, judicial decision-making, and contractual practices.

Moreover, the conference will play a vital role in integrating the GRF project’s findings into the global legal discourse. By attracting contributions from both established and emerging scholars, the event will promote intellectual exchange and collaboration, driving innovation in the study of contract law. This inclusive and interdisciplinary approach will not only advance academic research but also contribute to the development of more resilient and adaptive legal systems capable of addressing the complexities of a fast-changing world.

In addition to its academic contributions, the conference has practical implications for policymakers, legal practitioners, and business leaders. By generating data-driven insights and recommendations, it aims to influence the evolution of legal frameworks in Hong Kong, Mainland China, and beyond. The event’s outcomes are expected to shape policy reforms, enhance legal predictability, and provide guidance for managing contractual risks in times of uncertainty.

Ultimately, the research and discussions fostered by this conference are poised to make a lasting impact, ensuring that legal systems are better equipped to handle the challenges of the 21st century while promoting fairness, efficiency, and stability in private transactions.

Conference Highlights

The conference aims to advance both empirical and theoretical research in the area of supervening events in contract law. Key topics include contract termination, contract modification, and the interaction between contract law and public regulation. By addressing

these critical areas, the conference seeks to deepen understanding of how legal frameworks can effectively respond to unexpected and dynamic challenges.

The event also seeks to strengthen connections between Asian and international scholars. By bringing together leading private law experts from Asia, Oceania, Europe, and beyond, the conference will foster comparative studies and meaningful global dialogue. This collaborative effort is expected to result in enduring academic partnerships that transcend geographical boundaries and enrich the field of legal research.

A unique aspect of the conference is its emphasis on interdisciplinary approaches. By integrating economic tools, empirical analysis, and legal theory, the event encourages innovative methodologies and fresh perspectives on addressing pressing legal and policy challenges. This interdisciplinary focus aims to generate practical and theoretical insights that are robust and forward-looking.

The discussions and findings presented at the conference are expected to inform meaningful policy and legal reforms, particularly in the realm of contract law. Data-driven research and interdisciplinary collaboration will provide actionable recommendations for enhancing legal systems in various jurisdictions, with a particular focus on Hong Kong and Mainland China.

The conference will serve as a vibrant platform for intellectual exchange, enabling scholars to present their research and engage in dialogue with policymakers and practitioners. This interaction will foster new ideas and solutions, enriching the understanding of legal challenges and offering pathways for reform.

The scope of the conference extends beyond the primary focus of the GRF project, welcoming a broad array of related legal research. Scholars are encouraged to adopt diverse approaches, ensuring a rich mix of jurisdictions, methodologies, and perspectives. This inclusivity ensures that the conference contributes meaningfully to the broader development of the field, fostering a global conversation on contemporary legal challenges.

By addressing critical legal issues triggered by COVID-19 and similar global disruptions, the conference seeks to advance academic research, promote international collaboration, and influence policy development. It represents a significant step toward building resilient legal systems that are adaptive to the complexities of an ever-changing world.

International and Regional Impact

The COVID-19 pandemic and similar global disruptions have underscored the urgent need for resilient legal frameworks that can adapt to unforeseen challenges. The conference, themed “The Impact of COVID-19 and Similar Events on Private Transactions in a Fast-Changing World,” will play a central role in addressing these issues, generating significant regional impact while fostering meaningful collaborative synergies both regionally and globally.

The pandemic has had a profound effect on Asia, a region marked by rapid economic growth, diverse legal systems, and deeply interconnected markets. By focusing on the implications of supervening events for private transactions, the conference seeks to provide a deeper understanding of how contractual obligations have been affected, how existing legal doctrines have been applied or adapted, and how regulatory systems have responded to these unprecedented challenges. This focus will help strengthen legal resilience across the region by identifying gaps and offering innovative approaches to enhance the capacity of legal systems to respond to future crises.

Asia’s unique legal diversity, encompassing common law, civil law, and hybrid systems, provides a rich context for comparative study. The conference will bridge these varied traditions, enabling scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to share insights and learn from each other’s experiences. By examining how different jurisdictions have tackled similar disruptions, the event will foster cross-border knowledge sharing and the adoption of best practices that are tailored to local needs while remaining informed by global perspectives. This synergy between local relevance and international expertise forms the foundation for meaningful advancements in contract law and policy development.

The event aims to address critical gaps exposed by the pandemic, particularly in areas like supply chain disruptions, public health regulations, and the financial stability of private transactions. By bringing together academic research and practical expertise, the conference will inform the development of policies that promote legal certainty, economic stability, and fair outcomes in the face of global disruptions. Policymakers and practitioners will benefit from research that translates theoretical insights into actionable recommendations, empowering them to navigate complex legal challenges with greater confidence and clarity.

Collaborative Synergies

Collaboration is at the heart of the conference's mission. By integrating interdisciplinary perspectives from law, economics, and public policy, the event will encourage innovative approaches to solving pressing legal issues. The inclusion of global scholars from Europe, Oceania, North America, and beyond ensures that the conference achieves a balance between addressing regional challenges and contributing to the global academic discourse. This exchange of ideas will strengthen academic networks and foster long-term partnerships, creating a vibrant research community dedicated to understanding and addressing the evolving challenges of private transactions in an interconnected world.

The conference will also serve as a platform for emerging scholars to engage with established experts, ensuring that the next generation of researchers contributes meaningfully to the development of the field. By focusing on both regional challenges and broader legal and economic principles, the event will generate insights that are both practical and visionary, helping to shape resilient legal systems capable of meeting the complexities of future global disruptions.

Through its focus on regional issues and its commitment to collaboration, the COVID-19 conference represents a critical step toward building adaptive, equitable, and forward-looking legal frameworks. By fostering dialogue, sharing insights, and promoting international collaboration, the conference will leave a lasting impact on the academic community, policymakers, and legal practitioners, ensuring that both regional and global legal systems are better equipped to respond to the challenges of an ever-changing world.

Research Outcomes

As a tangible outcome of the conference, select papers will be considered for publication in an edited volume or in the *Chinese Journal of Comparative Law*, subject to satisfactory peer review. This initiative ensures that the research presented at the conference is disseminated to a global audience, contributing to the academic discourse on contract law, legal policy, and the challenges posed by unforeseen disruptions. Such publications will further solidify the conference's impact, advancing scholarly dialogue and shaping the future of legal research and practice.