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Higher Degree Research Student Workshop

Students undertaking Honours, Masters and PhD programs in International Business and Asian Economics and related fields and their supervisors came together during a workshop to report on their progress & share ideas.

The workshop gave academics and fellow students the opportunity to give constructive support and comment on each other’s research. The workshop allowed academics involved in International business and Asian business research and related areas to broaden their understanding of related fields.

Students gave 15 minutes presentations on their projects after which they received feedback from fellow students and academics. Associate Professor Kate Hutchings, Director of the International Business Research Group (IBRG) and Professor Russell Smyth, Director of the Asian Business and Economics Research Unit (ABERU) welcomed the staff, students and guests.

Professor Pervaiz Ahmed, who holds the chair in Management at Monash University Malaysia, gave the opening address. A diverse range of topics from Foreign Managers in Local Companies to Determinants of Commercial Banks’ profitability in South Asia were covered during the workshop organised by Dr Susan Freeman, Deputy Director, International Business Research Group, from the Department of Management.
International Conference ‘Legal Development in East Asia: China – Vietnam Compared’

Thursday and Friday 4-5 December 2008

Hosted by the Centre of Comparative and Public Law, Faculty of Law, University of Hong Kong and the Asia Pacific Business Regulation Group, Department of Business Law and Taxation, Monash University

Conference Theme: China and Vietnam have much in common—a Confucian past, socialist influenced legal systems, and rapidly developing economies and societies. Yet a comparative assessment of legal development in these countries has not been undertaken. This is a missed opportunity because studying their similarities and differences is likely to produce valuable insights into the role ideas and path dependencies play in shaping legal development.

On the surface there is little to distinguish legal development in these countries. The sequencing of reforms differs, but each country has enacted comprehensive legislative frameworks, and gradually reformed their legal institutions. Since differences reside below the surface of statutory norms and legal institutions, conference speakers will comparatively analyse how different legal ideas and practices arose and shape the trajectory of legal development. This investigation is likely to deepen and broaden existing knowledge by producing a nuanced account of how legal reforms in these countries have responded to global and domestic challenges.

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Food, some say, is the drug of first choice for many Chinese. Education, they continue, can credibly be argued to be the second. More than 16 years since I first moved to Hong Kong to teach (in late 1991), I remain persuaded by both these observations.

Over the course of my time here, British Hong has become the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of China (since July, 1997). Those who visit often ask, has Hong Kong changed greatly since 1997? My answer is, no more than usual. British Hong Kong was always changing. Since 1841, when Captain Elliot first raised the Union Jack over Hong Kong Island, it has changed from being the world’s largest opium trading port, to being: a general China trade entry-point; a bloodied and impoverished Japanese Imperial prize; a light industry manufacturing powerhouse; and, today, a key financial and services centre. Probably the shakiest period during my time in Hong Kong was during the last year or two of British rule. The British still managed things well, in all the circumstances, but they knew they were going – and Beijing often made life as awkward as possible for the last British Governor, during that interval. It is true that the HKSAR sovereign is the largest One Party State the world has ever seen. There have been some nervous moments since 1997, but Beijing has been highly selective about direct intervention in Hong Kong affairs. Thus the 11 years post 1997 have, overall, been more stable than the 1995-1997 period.

Perhaps I should add a health warning at this point. A colleague visiting Hong Kong from Australia about a year ago was moved to observe that I seemed to have become a Hong Kong patriot, in response to an excessively bouncy rebuttal on my part of the proposition that Hong Kong was a fading version of days-gone-by, now outclassed and outstripped by Shanghai. This was a “Happy Hour” discussion, I might add. Still, you need to be warned – I am cheerfully biased. Over the interval I have been based in Hong Kong, there has been no shortage of “character-building” experiences, not least in the workplace. The most notable of these have had their source in workplace procedures and collegiality challenges”. The student-teacher experience has, by and large, been terrific. In these respects, working in Hong Kong is much the same as working in Australia. One immediate agreeable difference stands out, however. Colleagues in Hong Kong grumble, from time to time, about the university administration. I tell them I may need to send them on a “Re-education Through-Labour” visit to an Australian University so they can savour the gold-
standard in clunking, micro meddling bureaucracy.

My teaching in Hong Kong has all been Law School based. There are now three full-time Law Schools in Hong Kong (HKU, City University of Hong Kong (CityU) and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK)) plus the University of London, part-time LLB. (The latter program has the most students, as it happens.) The Faculty of Law at HKU is approaching its 40th anniversary. The School of Law at CityU is just on 20 years old. The Faculty of Law at CUHK only recently started. The enter scores, especially for English, vary across the three Law Schools, with HKU entrants having the best scores, CUHK next, then CityU.

Most of my teaching has been at CityU. Since 2006, it has been at HKU. Almost uniformly, the students I have taught have displayed first rate diligence. How effective this application has been has varied, however. During the 1990s, law in Hong Kong did not attract the best students: it was demanding intrinsically and because of the English language requirements plus local (and overseas) employment prospects were comparatively poor compared to, say, accounting or engineering. Within the student body, at this time, a minority of law students struggled badly despite putting in hours of work. Yet, even here, one regularly came across stories showing how hard-work-can-get-you-through. Students who failed badly doing the local post-LLB, Practical Legal Training course, if they got another chance, usually made good. First, once they got through the wretched disappointment period, they swiftly put that behind them – regret and resentment waste time. Next, they would (usually with success) apply themselves to learning how they had gone wrong.

Hong Kong retains one of the world’s most open economies. As Mainland China has continued to power ahead, the opportunities for advanced, cross-border related legal work have multiplied. Post-1997, many smart, multi-lingual, Australian-Chinese LLB graduates moved to Hong Kong where they tended to be notably more highly valued, frankly, than in Melbourne or Sydney. Later, numbers of good offshore school leavers thought, why not do the LLB in Hong Kong rather than in Australia, Canada or the UK. As a consequence, today, law generally – and at HKU, certainly - tends to attract numbers of very strong local students plus some excellent offshore LLB and exchange students. The quality of research post graduate students (predominantly from Mainland China) is also on an upward curve.
Since I first arrived in Hong Kong I have taught Tax Law, Professional Conduct and Constitutional Law. I have also been involved, all along, in supervising research post-graduate students. I have enjoyed all this teaching.

Teaching Tax Law has been great. The HKSAR Tax System remains stunningly clear and simple compared to Australia. This means you can cover all of the fundamentals of a working system without need to resort to a blizzard of *just the tip of the iceberg* caveats. It is a very satisfying to be able to teach with so comparatively few, tax-miasma distractions. Teaching Professional Conduct has also been good – most of all because Hong Kong long ago copied the England and Wales model of a detailed Code of Professional Conduct that is generally comprehensive and well-focussed.

Perhaps best of all has been teaching Constitutional Law. The HKSAR is a First World, common-law based, City-State, encompassed within, as noted above, the world’s largest ever, One Party State. As constitutional experiments go, this one can truthfully be called unique. It is, of course, a work in progress – and will remain so for decades to come. A bit like teaching Constitutional Law in Australia pre-1914, perhaps – or in the US in the early 1800s – but, I suspect, rather more interesting given the very special Central- Regional relationship applying between Beijing and the HKSAR. I took early retirement from Australian University life in 2006, helped by Mr Costello’s super-tax changes. My working-retirement in Hong Kong has turned out especially well. But I know from full-time work here, that that, too, can be a great experience. In case anyone who reads this may be curious about teaching in Hong Kong, I would be happy to respond to any questions.

Now for the commercial! Last year, we established, at the Faculty of Law, HKU, the Taxation Law Research Programme (TLRP) within the Asian Institute of International Financial Law (AIIFL). The web link is: [http://law.hku.hk/aiifl/research/taxation.html](http://law.hku.hk/aiifl/research/taxation.html) - where you can find more detailed information on the TLRP.

The TLRP has already run a number of seminars and one major international conference - and we welcome visitors (thus far we have had individual guests from Australia, Canada and the EU). The Faculty of law at HKU is always pleased to hear from academics who may have mutual interests and who may be traveling through Hong Kong. The best contact point for me is: richard.cullen@gmail.com
New Book Release

‘KASHGAR: OASIS CITY ON CHINA’S SILK ROAD’

• Text by George Michell, Marika Vicziany and Tsui Yen Hu
• John Gollings Photographer (John Gollings is Australia’s leading architectural photographer)
• Publisher: Frances Lincoln, London
• Cost: 25 Pounds or 50 US dollars.
• 162 pages of coloured photographs and text.

For more information regarding this book or if you would like to purchase this item please contact Marika Vicziany: Marika.Vicziany@buseco.monash.edu.au
Present a paper and gain feedback on your latest research interacting with economists from around the world.
+ Organize a session and choose your own topic and participants.
+ Discuss a paper and share the benefit of your expertise.
+ Chair a session and help foster the exchange of ideas.
International Conference on Chinese Enterprise Research 2008

Branding in China - A Global Perspective

14 & 15 November 2008, Beijing, China
The Ritz Carlton Beijing, Financial Street
1 Jiu Cheng Fang Street East, Financial Street, Beijing 100032, China

Background

The International Conference on Chinese Enterprise Research is an annual flagship event of the Lien Chinese Enterprise Research Centre at Nanyang Technological University. Since its inauguration in 2004, we have successfully organized two conferences, both garnering favorable response and acclaim from international and domestic scholars and audiences.

To bring reality closer to the discourse on managing Chinese enterprises, the International Conference on Chinese Enterprise Research 2008 will take place from 14-15 November 2008 in Beijing, the political and cultural heart of China.

The year 2007 saw China surpass Germany to become the world’s third largest economy. Can China set herself away from her image as a manufacturing country through brand building so that she increases the overall competitiveness of the Chinese enterprises? It is a subject of concern among scholars of management study and Chinese entrepreneurs.

At the same time, international firms are also trying to determine compatible brand strategies in order to gain a foothold in the intensely competitive Chinese market. Hence, the theme for this year’s conference is ‘Branding in China - A Global Perspective’. We take advantage of this opportunity to invite scholars from the marketing, economic, and management fields to discourse on the topic of branding in China, from different angles.

We hereby invite all scholars to submit theoretical and diagnostic papers or outstanding case studies on branding. Please take note that this theme and will be ruled according to the guidelines provided by the Appraisal Committee consisting of renowned marketing scholars. All approved manuscripts will be included in the Conference Proceedings.

Submission Guidelines

Language: All manuscripts must be submitted in both English and simplified Chinese. (Inhalations can be made in other language)
Style: Please follow the style guide from the Academy of Management Journal (http://www.amanagementjournal.org) or Academy of Management Review (http://www.amanagementreview.org)
File format: Microsoft Word or PDF/Adobe Acrobat
Font: preferably Arial, 12 point for English, and Song, 12 point for Chinese
Referencing: Please indicate the original sources for all published or unpublished ideas and quotations
Identification: Please indicate “Paper” clearly on your manuscript or on your envelope or the subject of your email
 Authenticity: All submitted papers must be the original work of the authors. Authors will be solely responsible for plagiarized work

Important Dates
Deadline for submission of abstract - 5 September 2008
Notification of results - 15 September 2008
Deadline for submission of full paper - 15 October 2008

Organised by:
Lien Chinese Enterprise Research Centre, Nanyang Technological University, 2nd Storey, Border X Block 50 Nanyang Drive, Research TechnoPiazza, Singapore 637553

Sponsored by:

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www.buseco.monash.edu.au/units/aberu/
An International Conference in honour of Nobel Laureate Professor Amartya Sen is being organized during 19 – 20 December 2008 in New Delhi on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

The conference is being jointly organized by Cornell University and the Institute for Human Development. The conference will be inaugurated by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India.

Many of the world’s leading economists and social scientists will be present on the occasion including, apart from Prof Amartya Sen, two other Nobel Laureates namely Prof. Joseph Stiglitz and Prof. Edmund Phelps.

The organizers invite submissions of papers by young researchers below the age of 40 years (preference will be given to younger researchers). A detailed abstract (about 1000 words) of the paper should be sent to senconference@gmail.com by 12 August 2008. However, the submission of full papers will be preferred. The selected candidates need to submit the full papers by October 31, 2008.

For more information or for a conference program please go to the following website: http://ihdindia.org/CONS-STAT2.asp
International forum for
Contemporary Chinese Studies

Wednesday November 19 - Friday November 21

China’s rapid emergence as a global economic power has created strong demand throughout the world for cutting-edge research and policy analysis on contemporary China. This international forum has been established to bring together key research institutions, scholars, policy makers and industry leaders to form a platform aimed at facilitating the exchange of research and policy ideas related to China and its impact.

Following this inaugural conference, an annual conference will be held in different parts of the world, including China, Europe and the United States of America.

The central theme of the conference is the exploration of the dynamics, trends and policy issues affecting China’s sustainable development after three decades of reform.

For more information please go to:
Fourth Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development

Planning Unit, Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi
17-18 December, 2008

The Policy and Planning Research Unit (PPRU) at the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi, invites researchers to submit papers for the 4th Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development. The Conference provides a forum for dissemination of modern research in economic growth and development economics using both theoretical and empirical approaches.

Papers with an India focus are especially welcome.

Please send your research paper with an abstract (in a separate page) of at most 150 words either by email or by post to the undersigned no later than 30 September 2008. Authors of accepted papers will be informed by 15 October 2008. All papers will be refereed. Outstation participants will be provided with accommodation and limited domestic travel support as per the rules of the institute.

For more information visit the conference website: http://www.isid.ac.in/~pu/dec_08_conf.html