

## **City University of Hong Kong**

### **Opening Ceremony for Doctor of Juridical Science Programme for Chinese Senior Judges, Master of Laws Programme for Chinese Judges and Advanced Programme for Chinese Senior Judges 2025**

Date: 16 September 2025 (Tuesday)

Time: 5:30 pm (tea reception starts at 4:45 pm)

Venue: Benjamin & Anny Kwok Conference Room, Floor 4,  
Yip Kit Chuen Building, City University of Hong Kong

### **Speech by Mr Roden Tong President of The Law Society of Hong Kong**

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- Secretary for Justice Mr Paul Lam SC,
- Deputy Dean Professor Chen (National Judges College),
- Chairman Ngai (Council of City University of Hong Kong),
- Professor Li (Provost and Deputy President of City University of Hong Kong),
- Professor Lin (Director of Centre for Judicial Education and Research cum Identification of Hong Kong Law, Dean and Chair Professor of Basic Law, School of Law),
- Vice-Chair of the Bar Ms Eva Sit SC (Hong Kong Bar Association),

Distinguished guests, esteemed judges, ladies and gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon. It is a great honour to join so many respected senior judges and scholars at today's opening ceremony, and to witness the commencement of another year of the Chinese Judges Programmes - an initiative that began in 2008 through the visionary partnership

between the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong and the Supreme People's Court of the PRC, along with its affiliated National Judges College.

2. I am deeply impressed and grateful to the City University of Hong Kong for its foresight in recognising, as early as 18 years ago, the unique advantage of Hong Kong's common law system in promoting our Country's judicial development.
3. Harnessing Hong Kong's unique strengths particularly its well-established common law foundation, these Programmes provide professional training to serving judges from the Mainland and foster judicial exchange and mutual understanding between the Mainland and Hong Kong. By nurturing generations of judges, the Programmes have made a lasting contribution to our country's judicial reform and the rule of law.
4. As emphasised by President Xi at the 20th National Congress, "One Country, Two Systems" is a great innovation of socialism with Chinese characteristics. This framework allows Hong Kong's common law system to maintain its unique status, making it the only common law jurisdiction in China and the only truly bilingual common law jurisdiction in the world. It also positions Hong Kong as a "super connector" and "super value-adder," contributing to China's legal development and internationalisation.

5. While we proudly embrace the richness of Chinese culture and language, we also acknowledge that English serves as a vital international language, connecting legal communities across borders.
6. Since taking up the Presidential role in The Law Society of Hong Kong, I have actively engaged with our global counterparts through duty visits and international conferences. Over the past 18 months, I have had the privilege of meeting with government leaders, lawyers' associations, and judges in various countries, including the Middle East, Germany, UK, France, Malaysia, and India. What resonated with me most was that many of our conversations revolved around the judiciary's essential role in upholding the highest standards of professionalism, independence, and the rule of law - elements vital for meaningful contributions to their countries.
7. During my recent duty visit to New Delhi, India, I had the honour of speaking at two significant international legal events: the 35th Summit of Presidents of Law Associations of Asia (POLA) and the 2nd New Delhi International Rule of Law Convention. These events brought together presidents from law associations across the Asia-Pacific region to discuss legal challenges. I was also privileged to visit the Supreme Court of India, where I met with the Honourable Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, Chief Justice of India. A highlight of my visit was my one-on-one meeting with the Honourable Justice Surya Kant, a sitting judge of the Supreme Court and the incoming Chief Justice of India, effective this November.

Our dialogue encompassed a wide range of topics shaping today's legal landscape.

8. Hong Kong's legal profession is a pillar of excellence, renowned globally for its professionalism, internationalisation, and steadfast commitment to judicial independence and the rule of law.
  9. Esteemed judges, as you embark on this distinguished programme in Hong Kong, I invite you to experience firsthand the unwavering commitment to excellence that defines our judiciary and legal profession. The Hong Kong legal community is internationally recognised for its integrity, independence, and dedication to the highest standards of professionalism. These values are the cornerstone of our justice system and the foundation upon which public confidence is built.
  10. It is my sincere hope that your time here will be both enriching and inspiring. Through your participation, you not only deepen your own expertise but also strengthen the bonds between our jurisdictions. Let us work together to uphold the rule of law, foster mutual respect, and advance the cause of justice. May you carry forward the spirit of professionalism that is the hallmark of Hong Kong's legal tradition.
- Thank you.