



The 8th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium (7-8 March 2024)

On March 7, the 8th Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Legal Symposium was held at City University of Hong Kong. The symposium was guided by the China Law Society and jointly organized 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. It was hosted by the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong and the Centre for Chinese and Comparative Law (CCCL). The conference focused on "High-Level Legal Governance to Ensure the High-Quality Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area in the New Era" and featured enthusiastic discussions. **Mr. Zhang Sujun**, Vice President of the China Law Society, attended the meeting.

The opening ceremony of the symposium was hosted by **Professor Wang Jiangyu**, Director of CCCL. Opening remarks were respectively given by **Mr. Zhang Sujun**, Vice President of the China Law Society; **Professor Lee Chun Sing**, Provost and Deputy President of City University of Hong Kong; **Mr. Huang Wenping**, Vice President of the Guangdong Province Law Society; **Professor Io Cheng Tong**, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Macau; **Ms. Heidi Chui**, Council Member and GCLAC Member of the Law Society of Hong Kong; and **Mr. Richard Khaw SC**, Co-Chairman of the Mainland Affairs Committee of the Hong Kong Bar Association, who also served as a Deputy High Court Judge.

In his speech, **Mr. Zhang Sujun** emphasized that the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area is a significant national strategy, personally planned, deployed, and promoted by President Xi Jinping. He highlighted that in recent years, the Greater Bay Area has been proactive in creating a market-oriented, lawful, and internationalized top-tier business environment. This initiative has substantially raised the level of market integration and international competitiveness within the region, yielding notable interim results. The legal

interactions and research endeavors among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao have also deepened.

The Greater Bay Area is tasked with the critical role of "One Point, Two Locations" — acting as a strategic pivot for establishing a new development pattern, a demonstration area for high-quality development, and a frontrunner in Chinese-style modernization. This role is essential and cannot be substituted. Zhang expressed his hope that both the theoretical and practical legal communities will rigorously study and apply Xi Jinping's legal thoughts. He urged them to address the practical needs of legal construction in the Greater Bay Area, further deepen their research and explorations, and ensure the high-quality development of the region through advanced legal governance.

He stressed the importance of fully and accurately implementing the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, balancing development with security to guarantee the high-quality development of the Greater Bay Area. Additionally, he called for enhanced research on foreign-related legal theories to bolster the development of legal services and support the high-level opening up of the Greater Bay Area with sophisticated legal practices.

The keynote session of the seminar was chaired by **Professor Ding Chunyan**, Associate Dean and Professor of the School of Law at City University of Hong Kong, with speakers including **Professor Mo Jihong**, **Professor Jiang Chaoyang**; **Professor Guo Tianwu**, and **Ms. Chung Lai-ling**. They discussed major issues and hotspots in the legal construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, focusing on how to further deepen the "soft connectivity" of legal services rules among Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao, and providing legal support for building the Greater Bay Area in the new era.

The seminar was meticulously organized with four topics, with 23 experts actively participating in in-depth discussions.

The first topic, "Research on the Experience of Governing Hong Kong and Macao According to Law," was chaired by **Professor Wang Yu**, Associate Director of the Centre for Constitutional Law and Basic Law Studies at the University of Macau. Professors from various universities including **Professor Zhu Guobin** from City University of Hong Kong, **Professor Dai Jitao** from Guangdong University of Finance and Economics, and others shared their insights. Experts discussed the correct understanding and implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, the legal system of the Hong Kong and Macao Special Administrative Regions, and how to ensure their effective legal operation.

The second topic, focused on "Pathways of Legal Cooperation in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," was chaired by **Professor Huang Hui** from the Faculty of Law, the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Discussions centered on legal cooperation, coordination of

rules, and mechanisms among the three regions, with insights into natural resource governance, international arbitration, and the real estate market.

The third topic, "Legal Guarantees for Market Integration in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," was chaired by **Professor Jiang Wuzhen**, Dean and Professor at South China University of Technology School of Law. The discussions aimed at collaborative legislation, legal cooperation, bankruptcy mutual assistance, cross-border protection of intellectual property, and civil and commercial litigation rules, emphasizing the use of governance mechanisms to enhance market vitality and competitiveness under the "One Country, Two Systems" framework.

The fourth topic, "Legal Guarantees for Cross-Border Data Flow in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area," was chaired by **Professor Cai Zhenshun**. It included extensive explorations into medical research data, electronic medical records, and financial data, discussing effective pathways for data flow, the establishment of legal regulations, data sharing, and data security.

The closing ceremony of the seminar was chaired by **Professor Wang Yu** with a summary speech by **Professor**, the Secretary-General of the Guangdong Law Society. In her closing remarks, **Ms. Jin Yan** reflected on the productive discussions and insights shared throughout the event, expressing satisfaction with the depth and breadth of knowledge exchanged among the distinguished participants. She highlighted the enthusiasm and engagement of all attendees, noting that the seminar had not only fostered a deeper understanding of legal issues in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area but also sparked collaborative ideas for future research and policy-making.

