

Conference

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL LAW
CURRENT ISSUES AND FUTURE CHALLENGES**

Hong Kong
19 October, 2015

Location

The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) "Graduate Law Center"
2/F, Bank of America Tower,
12 Harcourt Road,
Central, Hong Kong

PROGRAM

The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Faculty of Law
Co-organized by the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau



Attendance is free. Please complete the Registration Form link (below) to register for the conference online. Be sure to register early (by 12 October, 12:00am) to secure a place.

Online Registration: <https://cloud.itsc.cuhk.edu.hk/webform/view.php?id=1076930>

Conference Organizers

Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Enriched by the intellectual and cultural heritage of its University and at the heart of the legal system, the Faculty of Law brings together common law and Chinese law with other great legal traditions and values to promote justice and safeguard the rule of law. An international family of research-led scholars creates a dynamic, flexible learning environment. Supported by world class research, the Faculty of Law provides a flexible, learner-centred environment in which students are actively engaged and prepared for distinction in the legal profession and for leadership roles in Hong Kong, China, and internationally.

For more information, see: <http://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/en/>

Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development

The Centre for Financial Regulation and Economic Development (CFRED) was established to support and facilitate research in all areas of law affecting commerce and business dealings, including the fields of banking law, capital markets, commercial law, contract law, corporate law, investment law, intellectual property, securities regulation, international trade law, tax law, and any other economically focused area of law in which a member of the CUHK Law Faculty addresses his or her research.

For more information, see: <http://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/en/research/cfred/about-CFRED.php>

Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau (Scientific Section)

In December 2015, France will host COP21. The objective of this meeting is to finalize a new international agreement on a post-2020 regime. By the end of COP21, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, all nations, including the biggest emitters of greenhouse gases, both developed or developing countries, should be bound by a universal agreement on climate, applicable to all and ambitious enough to limit global warming to 2°C. French embassies throughout the world are dedicating their efforts to raise awareness on this topic, in order to ensure the achievement of COP21's goal. To achieve this goal in Hong Kong, the French Consulate is organizing a series of events entitled "Oceans, Rivers and Climate Change: When climate makes waves..." in cooperation with local universities and organizations, French companies and institutions and other Consulates in Hong Kong and Macau.

For more information, see: <http://www.consulfrance-hongkong.org/-Climate-Change->

Concept note

The [Faculty of Law of the Chinese University of Hong Kong](#) and the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau organise a conference on "Sustainable Development and International Law- Current Issues and Future Challenges" that will be held on October 19, 2015. The event takes place in Admiralty, Bank of America (1st Floor), CUHK Graduate Law Campus (from 9am to 5pm) and is free.

Never before in history has international law been growing more rapidly than since the end of the Second World War. There has been a clear trend towards greater extensity, intensity and impact of global economic relations on human well-being and the welfare of people in their daily lives. While this process has existed for many years and decades ever since the great discoveries, global shipping and the technological revolution, enhanced political attention has been paid to it only during the last decade, depicted in terms of *globalisation*. This debate has many political, cultural and economic facets. Transnational access to markets (liberalization), cultural and political identity, and, even more importantly, 'sustainable development' are at the heart of the debate. The present conference provides a forum for academic and practitioners to debate the legal status of "sustainable development".

In a relatively short time the concept of "sustainable development" has become firmly established in the field of international law. The World Commission on Environment and Development originally defined sustainable development as a "development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". This definition takes into account the needs of both the present and future generations as well as the capacity of the earth and its natural resources which by clear implication should not be depleted by a small group of people (in industrialized countries).

The aim of this conference is threefold. Its first aim is to review the genesis and clarify the meaning of the concept of sustainable development, as well as to assess its status within public international law. Its second is to examine the legal principles that have emerged in the pursuit of sustainable development. And its third is to assess to what extent the actual evolution of law demonstrates the balance and integration with all pertinent fields of international law as urged by the Rio, Johannesburg, and World Summit documents.

The conference will start with a presentation of the Tara Expedition. Tara Expeditions is a non-profit organization active since 2003 in favor of the environment. A legendary boat built for extreme conditions, Tara is the platform for high-level scientific research missions. For 10 years Tara has been constantly on the move: The schooner has traveled 300,000 kilometers across all the world's oceans and has accomplished 10 expeditions to study and understand the impacts of climate change and the ecological crisis on the ocean, with concrete results. Features speakers also include Prof. Julien Chaisse (CUHK), Prof. Mark Feldman (Peking University), Prof. Mimi Zhou (CUHK), Mr. Vivian Desmots (DS Avocats), Dr. Jeanne Ng (Director Group Sustainability, CLP Power Hong Kong), and Mrs. Mayling Chan (Oxfam HK). For further information about this upcoming conference, please visit the Faculty website at <http://www.law.cuhk.edu.hk/en/>

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Monday October 19, 2015:

9:00 – 9:30 **Coffee and registration (Graduate Law Center Foyer)**

9:30 – 10:00 **Welcome and opening remarks**

[Prof. Christopher Gane](#), Dean, Faculty of Law, CUHK

[Prof. Julien Chaisse](#), Faculty of Law and Director of the Center for Financial Regulation and Economic Development, CUHK

[Mrs. Lilas Bernheim](#), Deputy Consul, Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau

10:00 – 10:40 **Session I: Scientific Research and the Sustainable Development Goals**

Chair: Dr. Isabelle Saves, Attachée for Scientific and Academic Affairs, Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau

- **The Tara Expeditions: SDG for Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources**

[Mr. Romain Troublé](#), Secretary General, Tara Expeditions

[Dr. Chris Bowler](#), Scientific Director of Tara Oceans Polar Circle and Research Director (CNRS), Environmental and Evolutionary Genomics Section Institut de Biologie de l'Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris (IBENS)

10:40 – 11:00 **Coffee Break (Graduate Law Center Foyer)**

11:00 – 12:30 **Session II: Exploring the Legal Challenges behind the Paris Climate 2015 Agreement**

Chair: [Prof. Julien Chaisse](#), Faculty of Law, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

- **The Legal Challenges of Climate Change Negotiations and the Upcoming UN Summit COP21**

[Mr. Vivian Desmots](#), Partner, DS Avocats, Guangzhou

- **Trade, Intellectual Property Rights and Sustainable Development**

[Prof. Bryan Mercurio](#), Faculty of Law, CUHK

- **The Future of Sustainable Development**

[Prof. Bryan Druzin](#), Faculty of Law, CUHK

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch in GLC Foyer (for speakers, chairs and discussants only)**

13:30 – 15:00 **Session III: Sustainable Development Challenges in HK and China**

Chair: Mrs. Anne Denis-Blanchardon, Consul (Culture, Education & Science),
Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau

- **Energy for Sustainable Development**
[Dr. Jeanne Ng](#), Director - Group Sustainability, CLP Power Ltd.
- **The Role of Labour Law in China's Path to Sustainable Economic and Social Development**
[Prof. Mimi Zou](#), Faculty of Law, Centre for Human Rights and Justice, CUHK
- **The Role of Consumer Protection in Meeting the Sustainable Development Goals**
[Prof. Fernando Dias Simões](#), Faculty of Law, University of Macau

15:00 – 15:30 **Coffee Break (Graduate Law Center Foyer)**

15:30 – 17:00 **Session IV: International Policy and Law on Sustainable Development**

Chair: [Prof. Bryan Mercurio](#), Faculty of Law, CUHK

- **Cross-border Investment and Sustainable Development: From the Perspective of International Developmental Organization**
[Mrs. Mayling Chan](#), International Programme Unit Director, Oxfam Hong Kong
- **Climate Change, Sustainable Development and NAFTA**
[Prof. Mark Feldman](#), School of Transnational Law, Peking University, Shenzhen
- **Environmental Concerns related to Investment Activity— Changing Approach of Investment Treaties**
[Prof. Julien Chaisse](#), Faculty of Law and Director of the Center for Financial Regulation and Economic Development, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

17:00 – 17:15 **Closing remarks**

Tbc Consulate General of France in Hong Kong and Macau

[Prof. Julien Chaisse](#), Faculty of Law and Director of the Center for Financial Regulation and Economic Development, CUHK

END

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