



19 January 2012

By email

Ms Flora Tai
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central
Hong Kong

法律學院
School of Law

Dear Ms Tai,

Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services
Use of Chinese in court proceedings

We refer to your letter of 10 November 2011 and would like to provide the following information.

The Law School of City University of Hong Kong has taken the following measures to enhance the proficiency of law students in the use of Chinese legal language:

From the inception of our LLB programme in 1988, there has been a compulsory course on Chinese legal skills for lawyers. Currently this is called 'Legal Chinese'.

Secondly, the School of Law runs a well-structured and "credit bearing" Legal Placement programme, the first ever in Hong Kong, which enables students to work in a legal environment in China and/or in Hong Kong. This programme allows students to either spend 4-6 weeks in courts in Mainland China or in a legal environment (chambers, law firms or legal departments of international companies) in Hong Kong. Students in the respective placements will use the local language (Putonghua in the China placement and Cantonese in the Hong Kong placement) to deal with real practical legal issues. The Legal Placement programme enables students to further enhance not only their legal knowledge and their capabilities, but also the use of the local Chinese legal language effectively.

Thirdly, since practising law in Chinese should not necessarily be limited to advising local clients in the Chinese language, it is crucial to provide an exposure to substantive Chinese law. 'Legal System of the PRC' is a compulsory law course in LLB. In addition, students have an option to take law electives that focus on Chinese law.

Fourthly, the PCLL Programme of City University of Hong Kong has a well-received elective called Foundations in Mainland Legal Transactions which exposes students to procedural aspects of legal transactions involving a mainland Chinese element.

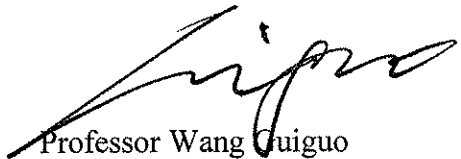
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Fifthly, the School of Law at the City University of Hong Kong has senior and junior Chinese judges joining the School as postgraduate students in every academic year. This large pool of Chinese judges provides a golden opportunity for the LLB students to interact with them and to enhance their knowledge in the Chinese language as well as the Chinese legal structure.

Please feel free to contact us if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Wang Guiguo
Dean & Chair Professor of
Chinese and Comparative Law
School of Law

WGG/AC/ST/sl