

Political Reform Seminar Series 2015

From Impasse to Innovation: In Search of the Middle Ground on Political Reform in Hong Kong

Tuesday 26 May 2015, 18:00 – 19:30

Academic Conference Room, 11/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower,
Centennial Campus, University of Hong Kong

With the recent release of the HKSAR Government's political reform package on 22 April 2015, political actors from across the spectrum have begun drumming up support for or opposition to the package in light of the impending vote of the Legislative Council slated for June 2015, which will seal the fate of the reform at least for now. Both the Government's Constitutional Taskforce team and the Pan-Democrats have stepped up their political campaigns, the former to win over the public's support to 'pocket' the reform package whilst the Pan-Democrats stand strong on their decision to veto the reforms, which they say are a brand of 'fake universal suffrage.' A victory based on a razor thin margin of support bodes ill for the future of effective governance in Hong Kong, which has been crippled by the current impasse fuelled by the lack of consensus on political reform in the past year. At this critical juncture of Hong Kong's political reform journey, the looming question which needs to be more fully addressed is whether there is still a moderate path that can be charted within the constraints of the framework stipulated by Beijing's August 31st decision (the "831 Decision"). It is this gap that this Political Reform Series hopes to plug by bringing together the voices of Hong Kong's moderates on the possible way forward in light of the existing decisions and Basic Law provisions and to articulate what possible concessions would need to be met in to gain support from the moderates in the Pan-Democratic camp.

Chair

Prof. Simon Young *Professor and Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Law, HKU*

Professor Young is known internationally for his scholarship on the Hong Kong political and legal systems. A practicing barrister, as counsel he has worked on a number of important constitutional, public law and criminal law cases, including advising the Hong Kong Government on its Convention Against Torture screening mechanism and leading the Continuing Legal Education programme in the Prosecutions Division of the Hong Kong Department of Justice since 2011.

Speakers

The Honourable Mr. Ronny Tong *HKSAR Legislative Councillor*

Senior Counsel, Queen's Counsel and current Legislative Councillor for the New Territories East constituency. He is a moderate pan-Democrat and recently began leading efforts to form a think tank aimed at gathering moderates across the political spectrum to explore how to proceed on political reform.

Prof. Chi Kwong Law *Associate Professor, Department of Social Work and Social Administration, HKU*

Professor Law is a former Legislative Councillor of the Social Welfare constituency and a member of Democratic Party, who recently suggested that the Democratic Party should consider making amendments to the Government proposed constitutional reform package.

Mr. Eric Cheung *Principal Lecturer and Director of Clinical Legal Education, Faculty of Law, HKU*

Mr. Cheung was admitted as a solicitor of the High Court of Hong Kong in 1989 and has been teaching law at Hong Kong University since 1996. He is a member of the Election Committee for the Election of the Chief Executive and of the Civil Society Joint Action Group, formed in 2014 to promote in-depth, rational multi-party discussions on constitutional development, and to provide a record of the Occupy Movement.

Mr. KC Kwok *Honorary Senior Research Fellow, School of Economics & Finance, HKU*

Mr. Kwok was formerly the Hong Kong SAR Government Economist and Regional Chief Economist of Standard Chartered Bank for East Asia. He is one of the 13 Scholars, a group of scholars that has proposed various ideas for Hong Kong's 2017 chief executive election. These ideas embody the principles of gradual progress, as well as more democratic, open and balanced participation.

Please click [here](#) for online registration to reserve a place.
For inquiries, please email Joyce Fung at joycef@hku.hk

