



The University of Hong Kong

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Press Release

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The Centre for Comparative and Public Law (CCPL) is pleased to announce the publication of

Civil Forfeiture for Hong Kong? **A Discussion Paper of the Hong Kong Civil Forfeiture Project**

In the spring of 2006, CCPL began research aimed at identifying the most effective laws and policies to eliminate and deter profit-making crime by means of interdicting crime-tainted property (i.e. the proceeds and instruments of serious crime). In particular, the project considers whether Hong Kong should follow the international trend in adopting a civil forfeiture regime. Civil forfeiture laws are controversial as they use more relaxed rules of civil evidence and procedure to deprive individuals of property associated with crime, even if there is no criminal conviction.

Civil Forfeiture for Hong Kong? is a discussion paper that reviews the existing legal regime in Hong Kong and canvasses the need for more forfeiture laws together with specific issues related to international civil forfeiture systems. The authors of the paper, Simon Young and Jennifer Stone, are advised by a Focus Group made up of local experts and stakeholders acting in their personal capacities. Throughout the fall of 2006, international experts from Ireland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom will visit Hong Kong University to share their countries' experiences in a series of public seminars and meetings with the Focus Group. Experts from regional jurisdictions such as Macau and Mainland China will also be invited. The main purpose of the discussion paper, and the 97 questions which it poses, is to encourage and facilitate dialogue, internationally, regionally, and locally, on how best to proceed on the topic.

The goal of the research project is to produce a final report, making recommendations for policy and possible legislative reform in Hong Kong. We also intend to produce a volume of scholarly papers contributed by the international experts to be published with a leading academic publisher.

The discussion paper, further details of the background and rationale for this research, and a list of the Civil Forfeiture Focus Group members are available on the CCPL website: www.hku.hk/ccpl

The discussion paper is a research output of the Public Policy Research Grant (First Round) from the Central Policy Unit of the Government of the HKSAR and the Research Grants Council.

We welcome your comments on the discussion paper or the project generally. Please send them to Simon NM Young (Principal Investigator) at snmyoung@hku.hk.