



新聞稿 PRESS RELEASE

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**Chinese University Organizes Symposium on
Centralization and Regionalism in China and Europe**

The Chinese Law Programme of The Chinese University of Hong Kong and the French Centre on Contemporary China in Hong Kong are organizing a "Symposium on Centralization and Regionalism: Social and Legal Recomposition in China and Europe." The Symposium will take place on Sept 22 to 23, 1995 at the Cho Yiu Conference Hall of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Both China and Europe are experiencing problems of social and legal integration. In China this is stimulated by market reform and the resultant expansion of regional power. Powers previously guarded by the central government are now being exercised, by right or by default, by local and regional governments. Yet, the relationships between the central government and local regions and between the regions themselves remain to be clarified. Europe is likewise undergoing a process of integration in which the boundaries of European and national power are being defined.

The Symposium will be divided into three parts:

1. Social and cultural influences. Social scientists from several specialties will explore the local impacts of precesses of national and regional integration. What are the legitimate local interests in China and Europe? How are local economic, political, social and cultural needs satisfied? In the European context this may focus on the preservation of culture and the traditional economic and political order. In China, economic growth has been accompanied by problems such as clan resurgence, the phenomenon of civil servants rushing to "xiahai" (enter into business), corruption and the use of economic power as a substitute for legal authority.

2. Allocation of lawmaking authority. This part will consider the legal problems associated with local/central relations. In China this may include the legal extension of central authority, inter-regional relations and how these issues relate to policy implementation and choice of law. In Europe this may include related issues in choice of law, such as "subsidiarity". In both cases problems related to foreign investment may be considered.

3. Constitutional implications. This part will consist of constitutional scholars and political scientists who will discuss the extent to which the above changes in central-local legal relations may have implications for constitutional and political reform.

Speakers will come from mainland China, Hong Kong, Europe and North America. The Symposium will be open to the public.