

Guilin, 2017: China Hosts Country's First International Symposium on Global Health

Law



The delegates at the 2017 International Symposium on Global Health Law took a group photo on July 2nd, 2017, in Guilin city, China.

In order to further promote the level of global health governance and encourage research in global health law, the 2017 International Symposium on Global Health Law was held in Guilin city, China from July 2nd to July 3rd, 2017. The organizer of the symposium was Central South University, China. The symposium was hosted jointly by the Institute of Medical and Health Law of Central South University, the O'Neill Institute for National & Global Health Law of Georgetown University, and the Global Health Law Research Centre of the University of Groningen (GHLG). The theme of this symposium was "Global medical health and relevant legal issues". Altogether, over 80 academic papers were accepted, and more than 80 experts from all over the world from colleges, universities, research institutes, and law practice departments attended the symposium and shared a comprehensive discussion on the abovementioned theme. The experts were from Central South University, China; Georgetown University, US; Groningen University, the Netherlands; Yale University, US; Harvard University, US; Temple University, US; Hokkaido University, Japan; Taiwan University, China; Tsinghua University, China; and Peking University, China.



The opening ceremony of the symposium on the morning of July 2nd, 2017

The opening ceremony marked the first stage of the symposium and was held on the morning of July 2nd. Leaders and guests who presented at the opening ceremony were: Xiang He, member of the Standing Committee of Guilin Municipal People's Congress, vice mayor of Guilin city; Yi Bai, the Director of Office of International Cooperation and Exchange in Central South University; Prof Lawrence Gostin, the founder and director of the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and the Director of World Health Organization Collaborating Center on Public Health Law & Human Rights, Georgetown University Law Center; Prof Brigit Toebes, Groningen University; Prof Gil Mor, the division Director of the Reproductive Science Division at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Yale University School of Medicine; Dafang, Huang, Chairman of Guilin Fuhui Health Industry Investment Co., Ltd. Prof Yunliang Chen, Central South University's Dean of Law and Director of Institute of Medical and Health Law, hosted the opening ceremony.

Prof Lawrence Gostin said in his speech that research in global health law was absolutely vital for providing solutions to a global lack of international health and wellbeing. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to the sponsor and organizers of this symposium and his wish to have further opportunities to communicate with Chinese health law scholars in the future.



Georgetown University Law Center
Prof. Lawrence Gostin

The Director of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange, Yi Bai, stated in his address that 2017 was an important year to carry out the theme of National Health and Wellness and to carry through the “13th five-year plan” of deepening the health care system reform in China. He also emphasized that it is the key year to construct the basic framework of a proper functioning medical and health care system and to accomplish staged tasks of reforming the pharmaceutical and health care system in China. It can be

predicted that holding the first International Symposium on Global Health Law would promote the development of global health law research in China.



The director of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange Yi Bai

The vice mayor in Guilin city Xiang He remarked that the holding of the symposium was the accumulation of wisdom and hard work by the world’s health law scholars and experts, and would provide guidance in reforming the pharmaceutical and health care system and in implementing a global health governance strategy in China. He also said that the health care industry had become an important developing direction of Guilin city and he hoped the participating experts and scholars could offer beneficial suggestions for medical and health services locally.



The vice mayor in Guilin city Xiang He

Dafang Huang, the chairman of Guangxi Bilian Investment Co. Ltd and Guilin Fuhui Health Industry Investment Co. Ltd., delivered a welcoming speech to participants and declared that it was an important measure for the enterprises assuming social responsibility to take an active part in building a platform of academic communication and it was a great honour to co-sponsor the symposium.



The chairman of Guangxi Bilian Investment Co., Ltd and Guilin Fuhui Health Industry Investment Co., Ltd ,
Dafang Huang

After the opening ceremony, the symposium had been divided into two parts: the keynote speech and the Panel Speech. In three parts, Professors Zheng Xie, Guoqing Hu, and BrigitProf Zheng Xie of Peking University, Central South University, and the University of Groningen, respectively, hosted the keynote speeches part; ten guests in all delivered the keynote speeches.



Peking University Prof. Zheng Xie

Georgetown University Law Center Prof Lawrence Gostin discussed the development of public health law in the 21st century from the perspective of the right to health.



Georgetown University Law Center
Prof. Lawrence Gostin

Yale University School of Medicine Prof Gil Mor explored the evolution of cancer all over the world. From the perspective of global health governance, he proposed the ideal path of cancer prevention and treatment.



Yale University School of Medicine Prof. Gil Mor

University of Groningen Prof Brigit Toebes discussed the relevance of international law in the protection of health and analysed how the ‘right to health’ as a human right can play an important role in this context.



Groningen University Prof. Brigit Toebes

Temple University Prof Scott Burris analyzed the research methods of trans-disciplinary public health law and pointed out that doing trans-disciplinary research is the gateway to public health law research.



Temple University Prof. Scott Burris

Central South University Prof Yunliang Chen analysed the situation of global health governance in China, and pointed out that an efficient global health governance framework had not been formed yet. He recommended that China should take on a stronger role in global health governance for its special advantages.



Central South University Prof. Yunliang Chen

Tim Xiaoming Hu, a researcher in the Assisted Reproduction Center of Harvard University, introduced the cutting-edge gene detection techniques, cancer detection techniques and high quality prenatal and postnatal care techniques and their influences; he pointed out the key role of scientific approaches in assisted reproduction process.



Tim Xiaoming Hu, a researcher in Assisted Reproduction

Taiwan University Prof Maw-in Tsai discussed both the advantages and disadvantages of the national health insurance system in Taiwan, and introduced some potential methods of improvement.



Taiwan University Prof. Maw-in Tsai

Hokkaido University Prof. Yoshida Kunihiro made a comparative analysis of the health care financing system in Japan, the US. and China, and pointed out that the fundamental human right to medical care was the cornerstone of medical insurance schemes in all countries.



Hokkaido University Prof. Yoshida Kunihiro

Central South University Xiangya School of Public Health Prof Guoqing Hu evaluated the effectiveness of drunk-driving law in China based on two open access data sources, and pointed out that the establishment of drunk-driving law in China should be based on an analysis of legal principles and scientific data.



Central South University Xiangya School of Public Health

Prof. Guoqing Hu

The Panel speech part of the symposium started on the morning of July 3rd, 2017. Over 20 scholars and experts on health law gave speeches, in the following order: Shandong University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Prof Xiju, Zhao; Shandong University of Politics and Law Prof Yan Li; Southwest University of Political Science and Law A/Prof Yi Wei; Shandong University, A/Prof Xiuqin, Shen; Sun Yat-sen University A/Prof Ruwei Hu; Tsinghua University Graduate School at Shenzhen A/Prof Juan He; Jilin University A/Prof Chang Liu, University of Macau Assistant Prof Yixuan Xiao; East China University of Political Science and Law Assistant Prof. Xiaofu, Li; University of Groningen, PhD Candidate Yi Zhang.

Sun Yat-sen University A/Prof Ruwei Hu took the Belt and Road (B&R) perspective as a background of theoretical analysis and highlighted the new trend of global health development under the influence of the relevant coordination mechanism, and assessed the functioning of soft law in the process.

Southwest University of Political Science and Law A/Prof Yi Wei analysed AFR assessment on China's new medical reform plan-making process and believed it was significant to build an accountable health policy-making process through data assessment.

East China University of Political Science and Law Assistant Prof Xiaofu Li took the findings from a survey conducted in Chinese mainland courts as a basis, and concluded that it was necessary to further divide the criminal responsibility of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) patients into different types and set up corresponding standards.

Shanghai University of Political Science and Law A/Prof Yinjian, Chen discussed the fragment of global health governance, and provided the means of building an integrated global health governance regime with more comprehensive and holistic approaches.

Tianjin Medical University lecturer Jing Hao talked about the prevention and control of non-infectious diseases with tobacco related trade cases under the multilateral trade system from the perspective of tobacco control. She stated that the control of non-infectious diseases should rely on both strengthening domestic legislation regulation and achieving international coordination of relevant measures.

Graduate School at Shenzhen, Tsinghua University A/Prof Juan He, analyzed the impact of the TRIPS agreement on the Indian patent system and pharmaceutical industry, and as a reference claimed that China's pharmaceutical industry should pay more attention to the understanding of the TRIPS agreement, and then carried through the self-development of legal protection.

University of Macau Ass. Prof Yixuan Xiao focused on the influences of the 3D bioprinting product-patent eligibility and discussed the influence of modern science on the development of the drug industry.

Guangzhou Medical University A/Prof Xirong Xu took a global view of the training mode of health legal talents in the Anglo-American legal system, and suggested that the training modes of multi-disciplinary crossing, the combination of teaching and practice were the basic characteristics of the cultivation of health legal talents. Therefore, domestic universities should learn from the experience discussed above and improve the education model.

University of Groningen PhD Candidate Yi Zhang evaluated progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) in China from the basic nature and characteristics of the right to health; and pointed out that at present, UHC needed to be improved to realise the right-to-health.

Dean of Guangxi University Law School, Prof Chao Jiang, the Peking Union Medical College Prof Suli Sui, Shandong University of Politics and Law Prof Aiyan, Zhang, Hubei University of Traditional Chinese Medicine Prof Min, Zhao, and Xiangtan University Law School A/Prof Qingshan Zhou made wonderful comments respectively.



Meeting room 1



Meeting room 2

At noon on July 3rd, 2017, after a day and a half of heated discussion, the closing ceremony was held. University of Groningen Prof Brigit Toebes hereby functioned as the host. In her speech she praised the huge success of the symposium, and she took great pleasure in seeing that many famous scholars from different countries were invited to attend the symposium and that over 80 professors assembled at the symposium to have an in-depth discussion of global health law issues. She was inspired by the speeches of each individual expert, and accordingly made a wonderful comment on the symposium with ten questions to share with the delegates and to cast light for the future global health law research,:

- (1) What is global health law; what are its scope and implications?
- (2) What are the roles and positions of human rights, ethics, governance, and other related disciplines in global health law?
- (3) What are the implications of global health law for domestic healthcare settings?
- (4) What can we learn from other countries when it comes to ‘good practice’ in domestic health laws?
- (5) How can we measure the effectiveness of health laws in a transdisciplinary manner?
- (6) How do we balance care and prevention?
- (7) How can health insurance best be organized and what can we learn from countries like Japan, Taiwan, and the Netherlands: public, private, or a mix?
- (8) Against the backdrop of an ageing population, the rising cost of medicines and care, and the

increase in non-communicable diseases, how can costs be reduced whilst maintaining equality in access to care? (9) How may overconsumption of medical services be reduced? (10) How can health lifestyles be encouraged, while e paying due attention to the autonomy, privacy and self-determination of individuals?

Central South University Xiangya School of Public Health Prof Guoqing Hu made the academic summary of the symposium: On one hand, a real interdisciplinary crossing had been realised at the symposium with each paper having its own special value; on the other hand, through taking advantage of every subject and international communication, new challenges and problems home and abroad had been explored.

Eight young talent excellent papers had been awarded at the symposium. The dean of Central South University Law School, Prof Yunliang Chen read out the titles of award-winning papers and their authors. The awards had been delivered to the recipients who then posed for a group photo. Finally, Prof Yunliang Chen delivered a closing speech, and he concluded that a great power must participate in global health governance and the research on global health law was a major demand for China. He also wished the participants would strengthen global health law research to promote global health governance in China.



The group photo of Prof. Yunliang Chen, Prof. Brigit Toebes, Prof. Guoqing Hu and the first prize winner Ass.Prof. Xiaofu, Li.

The First International Symposium on Global Health Law was a grand gathering of foreign and domestic scholars and professors in the field of health law. It created an interdisciplinary global health law exchange platform for experts, professors, scholars, medical workers, and lawyers from colleges and universities, research institutes, enterprises and public institutions around the world. The delegates discussed together the new issues of global health governance and the rule of law, which indicates the beginning of a new field of global health law in China and will definitely raise the global health law research level of China and the world.