**Centre for Chinese Law  
中國法研究中心  
Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong**

**Regional Development and Integration: the Role of UNCITRAL**

**Mr. João Ribeiro**

**Head of the UNCITRAL Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

**Time: 1:30 – 2:30 pm, April 2, 2014 (Wednesday)**

**Venue: A0825, 8/F, Cheng Yu Tung Tower, Centennial Campus, HKU**

**Abstract:**

The latest wave of globalisation has seen production increasingly organised along global supply chains, with boosting cross-border exchanges, increased interdependence and pervasive use of electronic means. Every step of the global supply chain calls for specific supporting legal provisions. And each State or entity with legislative-making authority wants to adopt its own rules. However, experience has shown that national laws are not easy to learn and understand for foreigners meaning many times lack of predictability in the application of the law, additional transaction costs to ensure legal compliance and, at the end, barriers to foreign investments and higher costs for imported and exported goods. Texts prepared by international organisations with the participation of experts from all regions of the world reflect global, regional and national needs and experiences, ensuring strong compatibility with all legal and economic systems. UNCITRAL works to show the benefits of adopting uniform texts and the role of international trade law in development and regional integration. Questions still remain regarding a possible divide on uniform trade law between developed and developing states, The broader policy implications for the progressive harmonisation and unification of the law of international trade.

About the speaker:

Mr. Ribeiro, is a Portuguese national that during his career was Head of the International Affairs Department of the Ministry of Justice of Portugal, Deputy Secretary General of the Conferences of Ministers of Justice both of the Iberian-American countries and of the Portuguese Speaking countries, member of the Portuguese National Commission for Human Rights and member of the Portuguese Permanent Bilateral Cooperation Commissions with the USA and Macau. During that period, he was in charge of the Ministry's development cooperation policies, namely several technical assistance projects for law reform in Africa, East Timor and Eastern Europe. He led national delegations in several international organizations: European Committee on Crime Problems (CDPC) and GRECO (Europe’s Groups of States against Corruption), Council of Europe; 36th Committee of the Council (CATS) of the European Union; OECD’s Working group on Bribery in International Business Transactions, being also a member of its Management Group in 2011. He holds a Master Degree in Law and he is currently a PhD candidate. During his first experience in Asia (2002-2008) he was legal adviser to the Government of the Macau Special Administrative Region and a senior lecturer at the Faculties of Law, Management and of Social and Human Sciences of the University of Macau where he taught International Law, International Business Law, Business Law, Economic Integration Law, Constitutional Law and Chinese Political System. He also has extensive experience in the organization and legal advising of international multisport events, namely several coordination responsibilities in the 4th East Asian Games – Macau 2005 and the 2nd Asian Indoor Games – Macau 2007.