



# Legal Pathways to Sustainability Transition: Innovation and Resilience

**SMU-Sydney-HKU Law & Sustainability Conference Series**

Program Booklet

July 31 - August 1, 2025

Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong



THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY



HKU LAW

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
FACULTY OF LAW  
香港大學法律學院



Philip K.H. Wong  
Centre for Chinese Law  
黃乾亨中國法研究中心

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## Introduction



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Legal Pathways to Sustainability Transition: Innovation and Resilience is the third flagship conference of the Asia-Pacific Research Alliance on Law and Sustainability, a research collaboration between Singapore Management University (SMU), Sydney Law School and HKU Faculty of Law.

Recognizing the challenges and opportunities that arise as the world pivots urgently to a more sustainable future, academics at leading law schools in the Asia-Pacific region have joined forces in a partnership that promises to be a beacon of excellence and inclusion for all stakeholders in this global effort. The Asia-Pacific Research Alliance on Law and Sustainability aims to drive research and teaching initiatives on achieving sustainability in our shared region and in the world. The first of its kind in the Asia-Pacific, the Research Alliance provides a vital opportunity for academia, industry and government to regularly discuss and advance knowledge at the intersection of law and sustainability. It emphasizes and incorporates environmental, social and economic aspects in seeking to develop legal solutions for achieving harmony between humans and nature.



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## Philip K.H. Wong Centre for Chinese Law, HKU Faculty of Law



Philip K.H. Wong Centre for Chinese Law (formerly the Centre for Chinese Law) was set up within the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong in 2009. Its missions are to promote research on Chinese law, provide a focal point in Hong Kong for scholars in Chinese law, undertake the teaching of Chinese law, and develop links with international academics and institutions. Since its establishment, the Centre has gained considerable recognition and established itself as a distinguished hub for Chinese Law research and education.

The Centre was renamed in honor of a very generous donation from the Philip K.H. Wong Foundation. Dr. Philip K.H. Wong (BA 1955; HonLLD 1996), the founder of the Foundation, was a respected member of the legal profession, and served as a Council Member of the Law Society of Hong Kong. He had taken up several distinguished roles in the HKU community and has been a constant benefactor to various initiatives of HKU. Since its establishment, the Foundation has offered financial support to 6 universities in Hong Kong and 11 universities in mainland China; thousands of students have benefited. Looking ahead, it will continue to root for educational endeavors and to contribute to China's continual development.



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July 31 - August 1, 2025  
Cheng Yu Tung Tower, The University of Hong Kong

### Programme Agenda

#### July 31, 2025 (Day 1)

**09:00–09:30**     **Registration; Welcome Coffee & Snacks**

**09:30–09:45**     **Opening Remarks**

**09:45–10:30**     **Keynote Speech**

#### **10:30–11:50**     **Panel 1: Green Technology & Energy Transition**

Moderator: Professor Hui Jing  
Assistant Professor, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

##### **Professor Mandy Meng Fang**

Assistant Professor, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

*'Green Electricity Certificate in China's Net-Zero Transition: A Game Changer or Window Dressing?'*

##### **Professor Taorui Guan**

Assistant Professor, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

*'Constrained Convergence: A Comparative Legal Analysis of Green Technology Regulation in the United States and China'*

##### **Mr Beaumont Yun**

Deputy Legal and Compliance Manager, PetroChina, Hong Kong SAR

*'Tackling the Challenges to Sustainable Aviation Fuel Transition in Hong Kong'*

##### **Professor Carolina Fabara**

Professor, University of Otavalo, Ecuador

*'Regulatory Frameworks and Foreign Direct Investment in China's Electric Vehicle Sector: A Legal Perspective'*

**12:00–13:30**     **Lunch**  
Cheng Yu Tung Tower, The University of Hong Kong



13:30–14:50

**Panel 2: Sustainable Finance & Corporate Governance**

Moderator: Professor Ying Xia

Assistant Professor, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

**Professor Jens-Hinrich Binder**

Professor, Eberhard Karls University Tuebingen, Germany

*'Internalization through Governance? European "Green Finance" Regulation and Directors' Duties in Intermediaries'*

**Professor Douglas Arner**

Professor, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

*'Designing the Architecture of Sustainable Finance'*

**Mr Bill Tsang**

Head of ESG, Roma Green Finance Limited, Hong Kong SAR

**Professor Jeslie Chui**

Adjunct Professor, City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

*'Suggestions to Enhance ESG Disclosure Quality in Hong Kong's Capital Market Using Carrot-and-Stick Motivation by ESG Regulators and Policymakers'*

**Professor Chi Zhang**

Lecturer, University of Glasgow, UK

*'Sustainable Finance in Private Equity: Stewardship, Disclosure, and Regulatory Challenges in the Context of Climate Change'*

14:50–15:05

**Break**

15:05–16:25

**Panel 3: ESG & Corporate Responsibility**

Moderator: Professor Nengye Liu

Associate Professor, Singapore Management University, Singapore

**Professor Thitinant Tengaumnua**

Lecturer, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

*'Private Financial Institutions as Significant Players in Environmental Regulation: The Case of Thailand'*

**Professor Si Zeng**

Associate Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

*'Shareholder Power and ESG: Evidence from China'*

**Mr Justin Lim**

Sheridan Fellow, National University of Singapore, Singapore

*'A Corporate Duty to Promote Sustainable Development?'*

**Dr Dalma Dorkó**

Supervisory Authority for Regulatory Affairs, Hungary

*'A Gradual Approach to Sustainability: Hungary's ESG Act as a Model in the EU Framework'*



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**16:25–16:40 Break**

**16:40–18:00 Panel 4: Environmental Law Reforms and Accountability**

Moderator: Professor Kaijie Wu  
Assistant Professor, Peking University, China

**Professor Yun Ma**

Associate Professor, China University of Political Science and Law, China

**Ms Bin Wang**

PhD Candidate, Peking University, China

*'A Smart Turn of Chinese EIA Regulatory Reforms? Case Study of the Notice-Commitment Reform'*

**Professor Mengxing Lu**

Associate Professor, China University of Political Science and Law, China

**Ms Mengyu Cui**

PhD Candidate, Newcastle University, UK

*'Who Should Pay for Historical Soil Pollution? Reconciling Non-Retrospective Law with the Polluter Pays Principle from a Comparative Perspective'*

**Professor Nicole Graham**

Professor, The University of Sydney Law School, Australia

*'Legal Education as a Critical Pathway to Sustainability Transition'*

**Professor Nicholas Liu**

Assistant Professor, Singapore Management University, Singapore

*'Regulating Greenwashing and Unsustainable Business Practices Through Common Law Tort Claims'*

**18:30 Conference Dinner**  
Ming Pavilion, 14/F, KK Leung Building, The University of Hong Kong



## August 1, 2025 (Day 2)

### 09:00–09:30 Morning Coffee

#### 09:30–10:50 Panel 5: Biodiversity & Environmental Governance

Moderator: Professor Nicole Graham  
Professor, The University of Sydney Law School, Australia

**Professor Paul Govind**

Lecturer, Macquarie University, Australia

*'How to More Effectively Recognise the Contribution of Subnational Governments in Restoring Biodiversity in Urban Areas Under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework'*

**Professor Kaijie Wu**

Assistant Professor, Peking University, China

*'Beyond the Agency-Led Legislation: Legislative-Process Innovation of Codifying Environmental Laws in China'*

**Professor Ancui Liu**

Lecturer, Nankai University, China

*'China's Challenges and Responses Regarding the Effective Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework from a Comparative Law Perspective'*

**Professor Huiyu Zhao**

Associate Professor, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

*'A Study on Litigation Strategies of Environmental NGOs in China's Centralized Governance Society – Taking Biodiversity Litigation as an Example'*

### 10:50–11:05 Break

#### 11:05–12:25 Panel 6: Law & Climate Change

Moderator: Professor Nicole Graham  
Professor, The University of Sydney Law School, Australia

**Professor Katherine Owens**

Associate Professor, The University of Sydney, Australia

*'From Experimentation to Decarbonisation: A Critical Review of Legal Strategies'*

**Professor Ying Zhu**

Assistant Professor, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR

*'The State Responsibility for Climate Inaction in International Investment Law'*



**Professor Stefanie Schacherer**

Assistant Professor, Singapore Management University, Singapore

*'Financing a Net Zero Future: Limits of International Investment Agreements (IIAs)'*

**Ms Joanne (Jingxian) Zeng**

SJD Candidate, New York University School of Law, USA

*'Governing Climate-Related Models: What is at Stake'*

**12:25–13:55**

**Lunch**

Cheng Yu Tung Tower, The University of Hong Kong

**13:55–15:15**

**Panel 7: Environmental Taxation and Economic Incentives**

Moderator: Professor Michelle Lim

Associate Professor, Singapore Management University, Singapore

**Professor Albert Trofimov**

Associate Professor, St. Petersburg State University, Russia

*'Environmental Taxation: The Challenge of Modernity and Current Successes'*

**Mr Chang Liu**

Counsel, World Bank, USA

**Mr Yumo Yao**

Graduate Student, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany

*'Leveraging MDB Sanctions for Global Environmental Governance: Opportunities and Strategies'*

**Professor Yan Xu**

Scientia Associate Professor, University of New South Wales, Australia

*'Green Levies and Constitutional Boundaries'*

**Professor Shuai Guo**

Assistant Professor, China University of Political Science and Law, China

*'Sustainable Bankruptcy: Recharacterizing Environmental Claims for Distressed Companies'*

**15:15–15:30**

**Break**

**15:30–16:50**

**Panel 8: Sovereignty and Resource Management**

Moderator: Professor Stefanie Schacherer

Assistant Professor, Singapore Management University, Singapore

**Professor Heping Dang**

Assistant Professor, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen, China

*'Sovereignty in the Lancang-Mekong River'*





**Professor Thi Thuy Duong Tran**

Associate Professor, International Law Faculty, Ho Chi Minh University of Law, Vietnam

**Professor Hoang Thai Hy Nguyen**

Lecturer, International Law Faculty, Ho Chi Minh University of Law, Vietnam

*'Foreign Investment in Vietnam's Rare Earth Sector: Which Legal Pathway to Balance Economic Development, Environmental Protection, and Sovereignty?'*

**Professor Wei Yin**

Associate Professor, Southwest University of Political Science and Law, China

*'Integrating Sustainable Development Provisions into International Economic Law in Asia: Does It Contribute to Sustainability Transition?'*

**Professor Luping Zhang**

Associate Professor, China University of Political Science and Law, China

*'ICAO Council as a Hidden Aviation Environmental Adjudicator'*

**16:50–17:05 Break**

**17:05–18:25 Panel 9: Emerging Legal Perspectives**

Moderator: Professor Kaijie Wu  
Assistant Professor, Peking University, China

**Professor Nengye Liu**

Associate Professor, Singapore Management University, Singapore

**Dr Ethan Beringen**

Yong Pung How Fellow, Singapore Management University, Singapore

*'Plasti-City: Asian Ocean Cities and the International Law on Marine Plastic Pollutions'*

**Professor Evelyn Li Wang**

Lecturer, Northumbria University, UK

*'Ecological Civilisation Constitutionalised: Has the Time Come for China to Constitutionalise Environmental Rights?'*

**Professor Louise Boon-Kuo**

Senior Lecturer, The University of Sydney Law School, Australia

*'The Problem of Plastics and the Governance of Mobility'*

**Professor Michelle Lim**

Associate Professor, Singapore Management University, Singapore

*'Legal Prefiguration through Multispecies Stories – Playing in the Law Beyond the Anthropocene'*

**19:00 Conference Dinner**

Café 1951, 15/F, KK Leung Building, The University of Hong Kong



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