

“To Pocket or Not to Pocket”- A Joint CRJ-CCPL Seminar on Hong Kong’s Democratic Future

Thursday 28 May 2015, 12:00pm – 1:45pm
CUHK Graduate Law Centre, 2/F Bank of America Tower,
12 Harcourt Road, Central, Hong Kong
Light lunch and refreshments will be served

On 22 April 2015, the Hon. Mrs Carrie Lam Chief Secretary for Administration unveiled the Government’s reform proposals on the method for selecting the Chief Executive by universal suffrage in 2017 which she heralded as paving the way for a system that is more competitive and more democratic. She added that *"We are now at a historic opportunity in Hong Kong’s constitutional development and I think the Central authorities will be very gratified to see us delivering universal suffrage in the selection of the Chief Executive in 2017."* However, recent public opinion polls indicate only a lukewarm support for the proposals despite its guarantee that more than 5 million people in Hong Kong would have their say in the selection of the next Chief Executive in 2017. This forum brings together three Legislative Councillors, namely Hon. Ms Emily Lau, the Hon. Mr Jeffrey Lam and the Hon. Mr Ronny Tong to candidly discuss the issues that face the Legislative Council when the reform package is tabled for a vote. The forum will be facilitated by Professor William Partlett, an expert in constitutional design and comparative constitutional law. To pocket or not to pocket - that is the critical question for Hong Kong to answer at this juncture. And how can we narrow the differences that currently mar relations between those on either side of the political divide to make a decision that is the best way forward for Hong Kong to fulfil its aspirations for universal suffrage?

11:30 – 12:00 Registration

12:00 – 12:15 Introduction by Professor William Partlett

Professor Partlett joined the Faculty of Law at Chinese University Hong Kong in August 2014, prior to which he was Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Lecturer at Columbia University Law School as well as a Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

12:15 – 12:30 The Honourable Ms. Emily LAU, JP

Ms. Lau is currently Legislative Councillor for the New Territories East constituency and Chairperson of the Democratic Party. She is a prominent liberal figure, and champions human rights in Hong Kong.

12:30 – 12:45 The Honourable Mr. Jeffrey LAM, GBS JP

Mr. Lam is a member of the Legislative Council of HKSAR. He is also the Vice Chairman of Business and Professionals Alliance for Hong Kong.

12:45 – 13:00 The Honourable Mr. Ronny TONG, SC QC

Mr. Tong is a Senior Counsel, Queen’s Counsel and current Legislative Council member for the New Territories East Constituency. He is a moderate pan-Democrat and currently leads efforts to form a think tank aimed at gathering moderates across the political spectrum to explore how to proceed on political reform.

13:00 – 13:45 Open Dialogue with all attendees

Please click [here](#) for online registration to reserve a place.
For inquiries, please email Joyce Fung at joycef@hku.hk

