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Hong Kong's Reintegration Into the People's Republic of China

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SYMPOSIUM: Hong Kong's Reintegration Into the People's Republic of China

Preface

Every other year, the *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law* (*Journal*) presents a symposium on a current topic in international law and practice. This year's symposium, HONG KONG'S REINTEGRATION INTO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES, POLICY APPROACHES & HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS, AND ECONOMIC & LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (Symposium), was held at Vanderbilt University School of Law on March 28-29, 1997. Our goal was to provide a forum in which leading authorities on Hong Kong and China could come together and discuss constitutional, human rights, legal, and economic concerns surrounding the reintegration of Hong Kong into China.

The results of this Symposium have culminated in the publication of legal scholarship related to the reintegration in the May 1997 issue as well as this issue of the *Journal*. The May 1997 issue featured articles by Professors John Rogers, University of Kentucky College of Law, and Peter Wesley-Smith, Hong Kong University Department of Law, student notes on China-related topics, and a bibliography of resources on Hong Kong and China.

Following the reintegration of Hong Kong into China on July 1, 1997, this issue of the *Journal* features articles by four additional Symposium participants, the transcript of the roundtable discussion held during the Symposium, and an updated bibliography of resources on Hong Kong and China. The articles by Professor Joseph W. Dellapenna, Villanova University School of Law and co-chair of the American Bar Association's China Law Committee of the Section of International Law and Practice, and Yu Ping, Consultant and Executive Committee Member of Human Rights in China, discuss the implications of reintegration with China on Hong Kong's legal system with emphasis on the future of human rights in Hong Kong. Professor

Ted Hagelin, Syracuse University College of Law and Director of Syracuse University's Hong Kong Law Program, and Professor Edwin Lun-Cheung Lai, Vanderbilt University Department of Economics, focus their articles on the legal system with emphasis on the economic future of Hong Kong.

The transcript of the roundtable discussion on March 29, 1997 presents the Symposium participants' predictions and opinions on the future of Hong Kong, rather than their formal presentations on this issue. Moreover, the transcript also highlights the concerns and inquiries raised by Symposium attendees. The transcript of the roundtable discussion has been edited where necessary to facilitate readability and to ensure clear expression of ideas. The Editorial Board extends its gratitude to Laurelyn Douglas, the 1996-97 Executive Symposium Editor, for her contribution to editing the roundtable transcript. Additionally, the Editorial Board is grateful for the willingness of the participants to permit the publication of the transcript four months after the handover occurred.

To reflect the publication of materials since the handover of Hong Kong into China, 1997-98 Executive Board members, Audrey Haroz and Jonathan Smith, who compiled the bibliography in the May 1997 issue, have updated the list of resources. This bibliography is intended to serve as a basic introductory research guide.

In addition to the Symposium scholarship featured in this issue, the *Journal* returns to its traditional format of publishing select student scholarship on a diverse range of international legal topics.

Through these two issues, the Editorial Board offers to the greater legal community the wealth of knowledge and diversity of opinions that made the Symposium a valuable experience for all in attendance. Accordingly, the Editorial Board invites the readers of this issue to examine the articles and transcript not only for the academic perspectives they provide, but more importantly for the contributors' personal insights and experiences. Given the diversity of backgrounds among the contributors, the insights and experiences offered during the Symposium and in these two issues of the *Journal* reflect a broad spectrum of scholarship on this important international topic.

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