

# The IIAS's First Decade: An Extraordinary Record

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I am greatly honored that the Institutum Iurisprudentiae of the Academia Sinica (IIAS) has invited me to contribute to this volume marking its highly successful first decade.

I vividly remember my first sojourn to the Academia Sinica in 1975 when, as a fledgling law student, I had the privilege of studying Qing dynasty legal materials with the brilliant and generous legal historian, Dr. Wejen Chang. Then and when visiting over the next few decades, I would at times wonder why the Academia Sinica, which was so distinguished in so many fields, did not have its own legal research center (Dr. Chang was a fellow of the Institute of History and Philology, and there were, to be sure, scholars at the Institute of European and American Studies who, on occasion, worked on issues with a significant legal dimension).

Happily, the Institute that did develop is nothing short of extraordinary. With the benefit of earlier deliberations led by such distinguished jurists as former Grand Justices Han-bao Ma and Tze-chien Wang, when the IIAS did launch in 2011, under the leadership of another distinguished Grand Justice, Dennis T. C. Tang, it set itself very ambitious goals. It, quite wisely, aspired to be a center that would foster research that met the highest international standards while still being mindful of the particular needs of Taiwan. And it

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has done just that by judiciously focusing its attention on six clusters, including) (i) Constitutional Structure and Human Rights; (ii) Administrative Regulation and Judicial Remedies; (iii) Law, Science, and Technology; (iv) Jurisprudence and Social Transformation; (v) Legal Development in China, Hong Kong, and Macau; and (vi) Comparative Study of Judicial Systems, Empirical Study of Judicial Behavior, and Legislative Studies. For this, the eminent former Grand Justice Tzu-yi Lin, who served as head of the IAS from 2012-2019, his worthy successor Chien-liang Lee deserve great credit.

In saying this, I am not engaging in 客氣話. When Jerome Cohen of NYU School of Law, former Grand Justice Chang-fa Lo, and I did our 2019 book TAIWAN AND INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS: A STORY OF TRANSFORMATION, we wanted to enlist the best scholars we could find anywhere in the world to contribute essays on their areas of specialization. We also very much wanted the book to mirror Taiwan's intellectual diversity and so, through that range of approach and perspective, to be living proof of what an open and vibrant society it is. And so it was that we ended up with six different members of the IAS faculty — Yu-Jie Chen, Cheng-Yi Huang, Chien-Chih Lin, Fort Fu-Te Liao, Yen-tu Su and Chuan-Feng Wu — contributing papers on subjects including constitutional theory, constitutional practice, transitional justice, national human rights institutions, public international law, and the right to health united only by their uniform excellence. The volume won a major award (the American Society of International Law's 2020 Certificate of Merit for a Specialized Work in International Law) and I am confident that their papers played an important part in that.

Knowing what I do of the research output of other faculty — as evident through their research output, through the Academia Sinica Law Journal, and through dazzling array of conferences on topics from constitutional interpretation to empirical legal studies, I am also confident that similar glowing results would have been achieved. Several of my Harvard colleagues

— including Richard Parker, Holger Spamann, Cass Sunstein, Mark Tushnet and Adrian Vermeule — have had the pleasure of visiting the IAS and have come back suitably impressed. And we are pleased that so many Harvard graduates and former visiting scholars (including founding Director Tang and long-time Director Lin) have been among the IAS's faculty — although fairness requires my acknowledging that the IAS also numbers among its faculty excellent graduates of several of the world's other leading law schools.

The IAS's accomplishments over its first decade have set a very high standard and pace, but I am certain that this is but a precursor of more greatness in the future. I look forward eagerly to that, and to my school and colleagues contributing to that and learning from it.

