

China Vision

英华残障人教育基金会

Supporting rights for people with
disabilities in China

Developing Disability Rights in China: From Paper to Practice?

Date: 15 January 2016

Venue: Moot Court Room, School of Law, Liberty Building, University of Leeds

Organised jointly by

- the Centre of Disability Law & Policy, NUI Galway, Ireland (CDLP)
- the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Leeds, UK (CDS)

Context

China played a very prominent and positive role in drafting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. There is now a growing number of university-based disability studies and disability law centres and related networks in China. Chinese literature on disability law reform challenges is growing exponentially and helping to set a clear agenda for change. Meanwhile civil society advocacy around disability rights has increased significantly in recent years and is fundamentally challenging some of the old assumptions around disability in China.

Several publications by staff from both the CDLP and CDS have been translated into (and published in) Chinese. The CDLP helped mark the opening of the Renmin Disability Law Centre (Beijing) in 2007 and hosted a visit by the chair of the Chinese disability delegation to the UN in 2009. Members of CDS have contributed actively to disability events in Beijing and in Hong Kong University.

This conference builds on the presence within the student body of four highly qualified activists and legal scholars – two in Galway and two in Leeds. These students will make key contributions to the day. It also draws on established connections with the UK-based charity China Vision and grass-roots disability organisations in China.

The event will be of interest to anyone interested in disability law and policy reform in one of the world's most populous and influential countries. No prior knowledge of the Chinese legal system is presumed. The event seeks to raise awareness of current initiatives and challenges experienced by disabled people and their organisations and advocates in China and to generate opportunities for on-going collaboration and exchange – eg in relation to research, learning and teaching, and advocacy and activism.

AGENDA

10.00 Welcome (speakers tbc)

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

- 10.15 Introduction to Chinese Disability Rights Law: Where are we now, how did we get here and where are we going next? (Fu Zhijun/Xie Bin)
10.35 Debate and discussion

MENTAL HEALTH AND LEGAL CAPACITY

- 10.50 Giving Power to People over their own Lives: the Legal Capacity debate in China (Huang Yi)
11.10 Debate and discussion
11.30 Coffee
11.45 Mental Health Law in China – Recent Law & Challenges (Chen Bo)
12.05 Debate and discussion
12.25 Summing up of morning session
12.35 Lunch

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- 13.45 Inclusive education: Obstacles and challenges of inclusion in basic education in China (Ni Zhen)
14.05 Discussion and debate
14.25 Access to higher education for people with disabilities in China (Ni Zhen/Xie Bin)
14:40 Discussion and debate
14:50 Coffee

CLOSING SESSION

- 15:00 Round table discussion on the relationship between academic scholarship, rights advocacy and grassroots activism in the context of disability rights in China (led by Gerard Quinn, Anna Lawson and Stephen Hallett)
15.45 Summing up of the afternoon
15.55 Closing remarks.

For further information on the host centres see:
www.nuigalway.ie/cdlp
<http://disability-studies.leeds.ac.uk>