

# Opening Remarks

December 16, 2005

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President Lee, Grand Justice Su, Distinguished Keynote Speaker Professor Parker, Director Wu, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> Bi-annual “Conference on Constitutional Construction: Theory and Practice” hosted by the Institutum Iurisprudentiae, Academia Sinica.

In light of the rapid accumulation and increasing influence of the constitutional interpretations rendered by the Grand Justices of the Judicial Yuan, the former Institute for Social Sciences and Philosophy of the Academia Sinica held the first “Conference on Constitutional Construction: Theory and Practice” in March 1997. It was then the first large scale conference focusing on constitutional construction in Taiwan and won unusual warm appraisal from both academic and practicing lawyers. I remember, on the opening day, as most of the Grand Justices were present Dr. Sher, the then President of the Judicial Yuan, joked that the quorum for the Council of Grand Justices was met and an ad hoc meeting was to be convened. Starting from the 4<sup>th</sup> Conference in 2003, a main theme has been chosen (for example, “Constitutional Construction and Social Change” for 2003) to converge the discussions and an inter-disciplinary approach has been taken to deepen the understanding of the Constitution. In order to sincerely echo the inauguration address of President Chen to shape a new constitution for the Republic in the year 2006, the Institute of Political Science and the Institutum Iurisprudentiae of the Academia Sinica launched a series of dialogue on constitutional reengineering. Today and tomorrow’s conference is also the forth and the last run of this dialogue.

A total of 12 papers are to be presented and commented by 24 jurists and political scientists during the two days conference. In addition, we are truly honored to be able to invite Professor Richard Parker from Harvard Law School as Keynote Speaker as well as Professor Marie-Anne Cohendet from l’Université Paris I as Special Speaker. I believe the audience will pleasantly enjoy such an abundant intellectual

meeting.

Finally, I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all of my colleagues and staff. Without your strenuous efforts and generous contribution, we can not enjoy the privilege of having a free and thorough deliberation.

Wish you all healthy and pleasant. Wish a complete success to the Conference.  
Thank you very much.