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ACADEMIC NEWS

FUTURE OF LAW CONFERENCE: THE INTERNET OF THINGS, SMART CONTRACTS AND INTELLIGENT MACHINES

From 26 to 27 October 2017, the Centre for Cross-Border Commercial Law in Asia of Singapore Management University (SMU) Law School held an international conference entitled "Future of Law Conference: The Internet of Things, Smart Contracts and Intelligent Machines" in Singapore. The conference brought together the leading thinkers in academia and practice in the field of information technology law to discuss the legal and regulatory implications of recent technological developments. Associate Professor ZHANG Jiyu and Associate Professor DING Xiaodong of the Law and Technology Institute of Renmin Law School were invited to attend the conference.

On the first day, Simon Beswick, CEO of Osborne Clarke's international organization, delivered a welcome address at first. Mr. Ng How Yue, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Law, then gave a speech as guest of honor. Professor Ian Kerr from University of Ottawa delivered an opening keynote speech themed with "AI and the Law" afterwards, to which Koh Chia Ling, a director of Singapore Law Practice, OC Queen Street LLC, made comments. Professor Ian Kerr, Koh Chia Ling, and Jacqueline Poh (Chief Executive, GovTech, Singapore) took part in the following panel discussion, for which Dr. Eliza Mik worked as moderator. Goh Yihan (Dean of SMU) provided closing remarks afterwards.

In the parallel sessions after lunch, Professor Sharon K. Sandeen from Mitchell Hamline School of Law expressed opinions on the relationship between cyber security and wrongful acquisition tort. Furthermore, Dr. C. Sappa (Assistant Professor from IÉSEG School of Management) discussed what trade secrecy has to do with a sharing-based paradigm. During the presentation on the regulation of online platforms, Dr. Jonathan Galloway (Senior Lecturer of Newcastle Law School) addressed the role of competition authorities in promoting innovation and issues arising from innovation of platforms. Dr. Gary Low (Assistant Professor of SMU) described risk and regulation of online platforms. In the plenary session, Simon Spooner (Partner and International Head of Transport & Automotive Sector) aimed to delve deeper into the skills and areas of discipline that will be needed by lawyers of the future, and CHEN Siyuan (Assistant Professor of SMU) focused on the issue whether there is any personal remedies for recreational drones and alleged privacy intrusions.

In the second-day presentation, Professor Nancy S. Kim from California Western School of Law first delivered a speech on "Normalizing Business Practices through the

Use of Wrap Contracts" in the first session. Kayleen Manwaring (Lecturer of The University of New South Wales) then discussed the challenges for consumers arisen by the emerging information technologies. Dr. Eliza Mik (Assistant Professor of SMU) focused on the consent and disclosure in the Age of the Internet of Things. In another presentation themed with "Transformations in Intellectual Property Laws," Aviv Gaon from Osgoode Hall Law School recognized a revolution by artificial intelligence authorship. Dr. Alexandra George (Senior Lecturer of The University of New South Wales) described sci-tech disruption and intellectual property as a metaphysical approach to the future of intellectual property laws, and Prof Katja Lindroos from University of Eastern Finland law school talked about risks and gains underlying block chain technologies.

In the second session, liabilities for artificial artefacts and technological challenges for privacy were discussed simultaneously. Mizuki Hashiguchi (Attorney at Law, Oh-Ebashi LPC & Partners) explained artificial intelligence's enigmatic glitches by comparing practical challenges confronting tort law in the United States, Europe and Japan. Professor Salil Mehra from Temple University raised the issue of whom do the intelligent agents work for, taking Siri as an example. Dr. Normann Witzleb (Associate Professor of Monash University) then proposed argument on the protection of young persons' privacy in an interconnected world.

In the third session about smart law enforcement, Fintech and cryptocurrencies, Hannah Lim Yee Fen (Associate Professor of Nanyang Technological University) analysed the probability that machines can think from views of a computer science-trained law professional. Dr. Gavin Robinson from Université du Luxembourg compared Fintech and smart law enforcement in Luxembourg and UK. In the plenary session after lunch, Jens Krebs (Lecturer of University of Portsmouth) pointed out the block chains and electronic bills of lading in the international trade. Both Chris Reed (Professor of Queen Mary University of London) and Kelvin Low (Associate Professor of SMU) focused on legal issues arisen from Bitcoin.

A closing keynote speech was then given by Professor Roger Brownsword from Kings College London, detailing on three large regulatory matters raised by the dramatic emergence of machine learning technologies. Finally, Adrian Bott (Partner and International Head of Digital Business Sector) and Dr. Eliza Mik (Assistant Professor of SMU) delivered closing remarks.

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