

Introduction to the Inaugural Issue

The Academic Journal of “One Country, Two Systems”, an academic periodical, most likely the only one so far dedicated to theoretical research with exclusive focus on discussions and practice relating to the “One Country, Two Systems” principle, is now launched to researchers and the general public. It should have come as no surprise to the academic community. Rather than unexpected, it is an inevitable outcome following the development trends of the current situation, the establishment of the Special Administrative Regions (SARs), and the effective implementation of the Basic Law of the two SARs in China.

The notion of “One Country, Two Systems”, as an important integral part of the theoretical system and practice for socialism with Chinese characteristics, has become a core research concern in the contemporary studies of law and political science. It has long been indirectly included in the Constitution of the People’s Republic of China, as a significant highlight of current constitutional development, but also widely recognized by the people of the two SARs and all China, as well as the international community. Not only has it been legalized through the Basic Law and become operational, its scientific and practical nature has also been proved by the effective running of the SARs for more than a decade now. The SAR system, no longer a novel theoretical undertaking, but an innovative evolving system, enjoys a dynamism and vitality and has become an entirely new form of social structure and civilization, and a system imbued with viable strength. Conscientious study and in-depth research of “One Country, Two Systems” principle and the Basic Law have naturally become a matter of urgency and inevitability for all interested parties and for the experts and scholars in related fields in particular.

Macao is China’s second SAR to have implemented the “One Country, Two Systems” principle. The Macao SAR is an effective embodiment of the notion of “One Country, Two Systems” and all its residents, including experts and scholars, have been direct participants in and beneficiaries of the system. As we have had the most realistic understanding and direct experience of “One Country, Two Systems”, we are therefore best positioned to speak about “One Country, Two Systems”. The promotion of proper and comprehensive understanding of “One Country, Two Systems” and the Basic Law, of further constitutional development and progress, and the enhancement of rational knowledge and practice of the SAR system, have rightly become a historic mission and social responsibility for scholars and in particular specialists and academics concerned with the development of legal systems in Macao. While Macao has traditionally been known as the “Lotus Land” and “Oriental Gem”, the effective implementation of the “One Country, Two

Systems” policy has further enhanced its vitality. Its economic strength and public self-confidence have also grown thanks to the guidelines of the Basic Law and the protection it has accorded. While going forward will not always be smooth sailing, with strong support from the central government and the motherland, the Macao SAR will nonetheless continue in its determined and successful development into the future, making the model of the “One Country, Two Systems” policy with Macao characteristics a brand with unique appeal for the Macao SAR.

We will greatly appreciate comments, critiques, and opinions from our readers and look forward to article contributions from scholars from Macao and overseas. Democratic and liberal principles in academic endeavor will be the soul of our journal. Accommodating differences in opinions and encouraging free debate of different schools of thought shall be our distinctive feature. Independence, innovation, continuous self-improvement will be the yardstick of success and growth. The Journal is launched in a new era for the development of the “One Country, Two Systems” theory and will grow in continuous academic exploration, just as the saying goes that: “As there is no limit to human endeavor, there shall be no end to exploration and innovation.”

The Editor

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