

## CIPL DISCUSSION GROUP

# Official Languages and Bilingualism in the Courtroom: Hong Kong, Canada, the Republic of Ireland, and International Law

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**Wednesday 22 November 2006, 1pm**

**Staff Library** Level 1, ANU College of Law, (Bldg 5), cnr Fellows & East Roads, The ANU

RSVP to: [cipl@law.anu.edu.au](mailto:cipl@law.anu.edu.au) by cob 21 November 2006

This event is free and open to the public.

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Being the core means of human communication, language is at once universal and varied. In Hong Kong, the issue of language use rights in the courtroom was given prominent scrutiny in *Re Cheng Kai Nam Gary*, where a former legislator applied to the Hong Kong Court of First Instance for leave to apply for judicial review against the listing judge's refusal to cause his District Court criminal proceedings to be conducted in Cantonese and subsequently to direct a bilingual judge to be listed in the conduct of the matter. The case will be used as springboard for a wider discussion on the question of whether international law can come to aid in furthering the protection of language rights in the courtroom. As Hong Kong is a common law jurisdiction, we will also refer to the experience of Canada and Ireland with legal bilingualism particularly in judicial proceedings and in the courtroom.

Mr Chan is Visiting Fellow at the Asia-Pacific College of Diplomacy, ANU. Previously, he was Researcher at the world's largest energy law practice Baker Botts LLP, Visiting Fellow at the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, the Gender, Sexuality and Law Research Group at Keele University School of Law, and the Lauterpacht Research Centre for International Law at the University of Cambridge.