

By Invitation

**ASIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW
FACULTY OF LAW, THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG**

Announces

LAND LAW CONVERSATIONS

An occasional series of discussions on topics concerning land in Hong Kong

**Is the Small House Policy
Constitutional?**

**Wednesday, 25 April 2018 starting at 1:00 pm
Room 901, 9/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower
Centennial Campus, The University of Hong Kong**

The Small House Policy was instituted in 1972, long before the Bill of Rights Ordinance and the Basic Law came into being. The policy bestows valuable privileges upon the male descendants of inhabitants in 1898 of New Territories villages: the right to build on land without paying a premium and the right to receive subsidized land on which to build. These privileges are not available to female descendants, to non-indigenous villagers and to other inhabitants of the Hong Kong SAR. The policy therefore appears to be discriminatory and in potential violation of several articles of the Basic Law.

Can the policy nevertheless be justified constitutionally? What arguments might be raised in defence of the policy? What role might be played by Article 40 of the Basic Law which protects the lawful traditional rights and interests of indigenous inhabitants of the New Territories?

Discussion of these and other questions will be led by two leading scholars of the Basic Law, **Professor Johannes Chan** and **Associate Professor Danny Gittings**.

Light refreshments will be available.

If you would like to attend, please notify Flora Leung at fkleung@hku.hk on or before 20 April 2018 noon.