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## CJER JSD Chinese Senior Judges' Academic Visit to Europe

Jasmine Lin

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From 1-14 May 2016, **Prof. Lin Feng**, Director of the Centre for Judicial Education and Research, CityU led a group of 10 JSD Chinese senior judge students to conduct academic visits in Glasgow, Edinburgh, London and Paris.

Prof. David Tully, Adjunct Professor of School of Law, CityU and Prof. Mark Poutise, Law School, University of Strathclyde tailor-made a visiting programme for the group to familiarize the judge students with the Scotland Legal System, Court Structure and Judiciary. During the 3-day visit in Scotland, the judge students attended a half-day academic programme at the Law School of the University of Strathclyde, observed criminal jury trial at the Glasgow Sheriff Court and Judicial Review appeal at the Court of Session in Edinburgh. The last day in Scotland happened to be the Election Day of the Scottish Parliament, which provided the judge students with an unexpected learning experience.



Group photo with Dame Elish (in the middle), Principal of St. Hugh College, University of Oxford

The judge students continued the academic visit in London where they not only visited the Supreme Court, but also participated in trials and discussions in the London Mercantile Court. The group also paid a half-day visit to the University of Oxford. Prof. Andres Burrows, Professor of the Law of England, Oxford Law Faculty greeted the group at the All Soul's College and held a discussion. Dame Elish, Principal of the St Hugh's College and the former Lord Advocate of Scotland welcomed the judge students over a traditional English Afternoon Tea. The judges were also shown around the Oxford China Centre established in the St Hugh's College. Mr. Thomas So, Partner of the Mayer Brown JSM helped to arrange a visit to law firm's London branch. The student representative, Judge Jiang Xinhua, Vice President of the Higher People's Court of Xinjiang Autonomous Region introduced the Chinese judicial system, while Ms. Kate Wilson, lawyer of MayerBrown JSM gave an overview of British court system to the judge students.

Paris is the last stop. **Prof. Herve Ascensio, Professor at the Sorbonne Law School, University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne** arranged visits to the Constitutional Council, Council of State and Court of Cassation. Besides, a seminar with professors and PhD students from University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne was also held for the group to exchange ideas.

The judge students have acquired solid knowledge about the judicial system and court operation of the United Kingdom and France through the two-week visit. The academic visit itself is also a great opportunity for judges and scholars to exchange views and ideas.