

The 7th International Conference on Evidence Law and Forensic Science was Held in Freiburg, Germany

The 7th International Conference on Evidence Law and Forensic Science (“the 7th ICELFS 2019”) has been successfully held from July 31 to August 2, 2019, in Freiburg, Germany. The conference was jointly sponsored and cohosted by the China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL), International Association of Evidence Science (IAES) and the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law (MPICC). It was organized by the MPICC. The 7th ICELFS was attended by more than 80 delegates including evidence scholars and forensic scientists from 19 countries including China, U.S., Germany, U.K., Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, The Netherlands, Japan, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Australia, Colombia, Tanzania, Poland, Belarus, Mexico, Qatar and Turkey. 29 legal scholars and forensic science experts from the China University of Political Science and Law, other universities and the Ministry of Public Security were members of the Chinese delegation.



The opening ceremony was launched on 31 July morning with a welcome address from Professor Hans-Joerg Albrecht, director at the MPI. Then, Professor Jan Lieder (Dean of Academic Affairs, Law Faculty of the University of Freiburg), Senior Prosecutor Eckart Berger (on behalf of the General Prosecutor of Freiburg), Professor Ronald J. Allen (President of the IAES), and Professor Baosheng Zhang (Co-Director of the CICJC) delivered their opening addresses respectively. The ceremony was chaired by Professor Ralf Poscher (director at the MPI and head of the department of Public Security Law).







Following the welcome ceremony, Prof. Dr. Hans-Joerg Albrecht chaired the plenary, keynote speeches and discussion. The major topics of this session were: “Forensic Science, Evidence Law, and Complexity” (Professor Ronald J. Allen), “Universal and System-dependent Aspects of Criminal Evidence Law” (Professor Dr. Walter Perron), “The Goals of Comparative Evidence Law Studies: Going Beyond the Promotion of Domestic Law Reform to Fostering International Cooperation and Convergence?” (Professor Edward Imwinkelried), “Evidence Law’s Presumption of Innocence” (Professor Paul Roberts), “A Preliminary Study of General Evidence Science” (Professor Dr. Baosheng Zhang), “Consideration of Evidence and Judicial Conviction” (Professor Dr. Wolfgang Frisch), and “The Decisional Nature of Probability and Plausibility Assessments in Juridical Evidence and Proof” (Associate Professor Dr. Alex Biedermann).





Following the plenary discussion, a guided tour of the MPI and its library was provided by Ms. Elisabeth Martin, the head of the MPI library, and Mr. Jingye Huang, Ph.D candidate at MPI and University of Freiburg. The guided tour was followed by a welcome reception in the Freiburg City Hall. The delegation was welcomed by Dr. Matthias Mueller, the head of the Law Office (Rechtsamt) of the city of Freiburg; he received his PhD from the Law School of the University of Freiburg. He hosted the reception in the name of the mayor.



Besides the keynote speeches in the plenary session, the conference had two sub-sessions on evidence law and forensic science. The evidence law session included six sub groups:

1. Evidence and Fair Trial Rights
2. Specific Evidentiary Doctrines
3. Evidence Theory
4. Evidence - Other General Matters
5. Selected Types of Evidence: Aspects of Underlying Logical Relevance
6. Frontiers Shaping Society in the Future (Evidence).

The forensic science session included four sub groups:

1. Forensic Science: Topics Impacting on Many or of All Forensic Science
2. Historical, International Perspectives on Forensic Science and Expertise
3. Specific Forensic Science and Problems
4. Frontiers Shaping Society in the Future (Forensic Science).

Putting two sessions together, there were 46 scholars and practitioners who delivered presentations during parallel sessions.





The closing ceremony was chaired by Prof. Dr. Liling Yue and Prof. Dr. Hans-Joerg Albrecht. Prof. Ronald J. Allen summarized the highlights of the conference, Prof. Albrecht especially emphasized the importance of the methodology of comparative research.

