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The East Asian Legal Studies Program: A Legacy Will Never Be forgotten

CHUN-I CHEN[†]

The East Asian Legal Studies Program (EALSP) of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law had many memorable and particular features which those who were there will recall and miss much. I here mention only three.

The first was Professor Hungdah Chiu's brilliant scholarship, superb teaching and profound commitment to his country as a patriotic scholar with a sharp sense of integrity. Professor Chiu has always exercised a strong fascination on me. Educated at National Taiwan University in Taiwan, later he went into an entirely different legal culture to become one of the towering legal figures in Taiwan and the United States.

It was with particular gratitude and pleasure that I accepted the invitation by him to be a research associate at the EALSP to undertake advanced research and training in international law under his guidance from May 12, 1992 to May 11, 1993. He carefully developed the projects for me at time I was there, i.e.,: 1) to audit the courses of public International Law and Chinese Law at UM Law School; 2) to participate in the editorial work of *The Chinese Yearbook of International Law and Affairs*; 3) to do comprehensive and independent study on the issues of State Immunities in International Law; and 4) to review, in anticipation of publication, my doctoral dissertation. It was a wonderful year in my life, my wife and I enjoyed the privilege of working with him in person at the EALSP. My first academic article in English was published in 1992,

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and my long-time research work in State Immunity of International Law came out because of the stimulus of him then. In 1999, sponsored by the Fulbright Foundation, I returned to the EALSP as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar to finalize my treatise on State Immunity. The book was published in 2000.

Professor Chiu was my mentor. Of the many people who have helped me in developing my academic career, I am by far the most indebted to him. He passed on April 12, 2011, but his spirit was much alive at the EALSP afterwards. His works have often struck me as many years ahead of the legal thinking of his time.

The second was the smoothness and efficiency of the overall administration of the EALSP run by Associate Director Chih-Yu T. Wu. Mrs. Wu and her enthusiastic team did everything possible to make success of the program. She paid great and meritorious endeavors on organizing numerous national and international conferences, such as the First International Law Association (ILA) Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in 1995 and the 68th conference of ILA in 1998. She also actively promoted academic exchange programs and opportunities for students and scholars at UM Law School with National Chengchi University in Taiwan. She took care of every visitor, student, and scholar who come to the program from Asia. We are very conscious of how much we depended on her and know what an important role she played at the EALSP. She has contributed greatly and indefatigably to the work of the program over 33 years, showing the amount of work she had put in during the years for which we all are grateful. She has made many friends and know her work has been appreciated by former President Ying-jeou MA of the Republic of China, President Nigel N. T. LI of the Chinese (Taiwan) Society of International Law, and President Ming-Cheng KUO of the Nation Chengchi University.

The third was uniqueness of the East Asian Legal Studies Program in the USA. As I know, it was the only one which published research papers/books in international law in both Chinese and English. Over the years, the program had published more than 240 titles related to contemporary East Asian studies, and 22 volumes of Chinese (Taiwan) Yearbook of International Law and Affairs. The intellectual quality of these books/papers was to the highest standard because the production was greatly facilitated by the exceptional skills and dedication of the team at the EALSP. In addition, the affiliated Chinese Law library, later incorporated into the law library,

at the program had a great collection and expertise in resources for research on mainland China and Taiwan, much of which was relevant to legal research, including historical and social sciences materials. The EALSP was especially useful to law students or scholars who intend to work in Taiwan and mainland China or do research on Chinese legal systems, and greatly benefited and enhanced them to develop a successful career in the field of international law and comparative law as myself.

It is a program would be remembered forever. In addition to thank University of Maryland School of Law, I am very grateful to Professor Michael Van Alstine and Professor Peter Danchin for their inspiration and initiative, they had devoted not only academic activities of the EALSP but also its administration after Professor Chiu gone. Members of the EALSP family in Taiwan all recognize the value Professors Van Alstine and Danchin have done and we thank them for it. In the light of the experience at the East Asian Legal Studies Program, I am much looking forward to working with them again.