

## International Experts and Scholars Discussed the Multiple Themes on the History of the Maritime Silk Road (16-17 December 2016)



The Department of History organised "To the Seas and Beyond: An International Conference on the History of the Maritime Silk Road" at the Lecture Hall of Hong Kong Museum of History from 16 to 17 December 2016.

Officiating at the opening ceremony of the Conference were Prof. Rick Wong, Vice-President (Research & Development), HKBU, Prof. Adrian J. Bailey, Dean of Social Sciences Faculty, HKBU, Dr. Jiang Bo, Director of Archaeological Institute of National Center of Underwater Cultural Heritage, Mr. Chan Shing-wai, Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services, Prof. Clara Wing-chung Ho, Head of the History Department, HKBU (HIST), Ms. Rosa Yau, Acting Museum Director of Hong Kong Museum of History, Mr. Ruan Huaduan, Deputy Director of Guangdong

Museum, Mr. Loi Chi Pang, Director of Macao Museum.

The two-day conference contained a keynote session, seven panels and a formal closing. Presentations and discussions touched on diverse dimensions, such as maritime developments and the opening up of sea routes, China's interaction with countries along the Maritime Silk Road, community development and culture along the trade route, Hong Kong and the Maritime Silk Road, and underwater archaeology. Around 40 experts and scholars from Europe, America, Oceania, and Asia participated in the Conference to share their latest research findings. Local participants included representatives of nine universities.

Distinguished scholars Prof. Hamashita Takeshi of Sun Yat-sen University, Prof. Roderich Ptak of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, and Prof. James Francis Warren of Murdoch University delivered keynote speeches on "Maritime Silk Roads and Trading Port Cities in Maritime Asia: 15-18 C", "Maritime Exchange and the Silk Route of the Seas: Perceptions of the Past and Present" and "The Weather Factor: China Sea Typhoons and Tales by Joseph Conrad" respectively.

The Conference was jointly organised by HIST, the Hong Kong Museum of History, the Guangdong Museum, and the Macao Museum. The Organising Committee was chaired by Prof. Clara Wing-chung Ho, while Dr. Oiyen Liu served as the Secretary-General and Dr. Ka-lai Chan served as the Coordinator. Members in the Committee also included Prof. Ricardo King-sang Mak, Prof. Kai-wing Chow, Prof. Kam-keung Lee, and Dr. Kin-sum (Sammy) Li of HIST. All of the above participated in the Conference as presenters, panel chairs, or discussants. A scholarly volume will be published in due course, serving as the final outcome of this conference.

