Corporate Governance and Taiwan's Capital Markets

Honored at the Taiwan conference were (from left) UW Law School Professor Charles Irish; Ching Chang Yen, Chairman of the Fuhwa Financial Holding Company and former Taiwanese Representative to the WTO; and UW Law School Dean Kenneth B. Davis, Jr.

Law School Gathers Global Investors for Taiwan Conference

The Law School’s new Wisconsin International Corporate Governance Initiative (WICGI), which is dedicated to improving the quality of corporate governance internationally, especially in emerging markets, made its debut in Taiwan this spring. The WICGI conference brought international investors and top-level Taiwanese government and business leaders together to share information and suggestions regarding the regulatory, business, corporate governance, and cultural factors affecting access to international capital for Taiwanese companies.

Representing the UW Law School were Dean Kenneth B. Davis, Jr.; Professor Charles Irish, Director of the East Asian Legal Studies Center at the Law School; and attorney Keith Johnson ’78, WICGI Program Director, who also teaches at the Law School as an adjunct professor and is of counsel with Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren.

Davis, Irish, and Johnson returned from the conference enthusiastic about the venture.

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Charo, Ossorio Named to National Stem Cell Advisory Committee

Professors R. Alta Charo and Pilar N. Ossorio, two University of Wisconsin Law School professors who are nationally prominent in the field of bioethics, have been appointed to the Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee, a new national committee to monitor and revise voluntary guidelines on the conduct of human embryonic stem cell research. Charo will also serve as co-chair of the committee.

The work follows on an earlier effort, for which Charo was a guiding force and committee member.

The committee was appointed by the National Academies, the nation’s most prestigious scientific organization. The work follows on an earlier effort, for which Charo was a guiding force and committee member, to draft the first set of national guidelines for the ethical conduct in the politically controversial field of embryonic stem cell research. Those guidelines have now...
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As Davis observed, “It was truly in the Wisconsin law-in-action tradition: a candid discussion of how Taiwan’s recent reforms were working in fact, and what additional steps might be realistic and effective in the future.”

WICGI is an innovative response to an increasingly globalized economy. The focus of WICGI is to help both emerging and established markets in Asia to develop structures that will help investors feel comfortable investing in them.

Credit for the idea of WICGI goes to Dean Davis, according to both Johnson and Irish, while Irish himself drew on innumerable relationships he has built up in Asia over the last 20 years. Johnson, who is former Chief Legal Counsel and head of the corporate governance program for the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (the ninth largest public pension fund in the U.S.), was able to bring major international investor representatives to participate in the Taipei conference from the Netherlands, U.S., U.K., Japan, and Hong Kong. The Asian Corporate Governance Association assisted in organizing the Taipei conference, and financial sponsorship and legwork were contributed by the Fuhwa Cultural and Educational Foundation and the Taiwan Securities Association.

WICGI is currently planning a conference in China in the fall, and will go back to Taiwan by invitation for a follow-up conference, as a result of the success of this year’s event.

For more information about WICGI, see www.law.wisc.edu/ealsc/wicgi/corporate_governance.