

## **The New Prospective Director of Journalism and Media Studies Centre**

Mr. Ray Chang, one of the prospective candidates for the position of Director of Journalism and Media Studies Centre, hopes to bring a balance between traditional and advancing technological journalism after the current Director, Professor Ying Chan, steps down in 2016.

At a tea gathering held for the visiting candidate, Chang talked about his extensive training in journalism at FTChinese.com, Financial Times and BBC World Service, which he believes will help him create an environment in JMSC that will produce competitive and skilled employees for the industry.

He believes that the true form of journalism is to “fulfill public duty” and that “journalists are commercially liable to society.” He hopes to impart this onto HKU journalism graduates by expanding the education program to enable students to carefully select courses they feel interested in and confident about.

He compared the JMSC program to that of MIT, noting that overseas programs allows its students to maintain a close relationship with the journalism industry. However, JMSC Director of Media Law Project & Associate Professor, Doreen Weisenhaus argued that Hong Kong has a different entrepreneurship environment than of the US and that JMSC combats this issue by inviting members of different news organizations to come to HKU and teach students.

Chang also mentioned introducing a more tailored internship program to help students find internships in areas they wish to establish their careers in. Weisenhaus further stated that JMSC had hired a new employee with the specific job to look for different internship opportunities according to students’ wishes.

Chang reflected on his experiences as an editor-in-chief of FTChinese.com, an associate editor of Financial Times and a former producer for Chinese service, BBC World Service mentioning that “sometimes you want to give up” in the industry where at every turn, there are barriers for journalists who want to uncover information or restrictions from doing the work they want to. When asked how to overcome those challenges by a student, Chang said that a journalist must stand their ground and be creative to find their way around and get the information they sought.

Another student asked him why he chose to switch from actively working in the industry to education. He answered that “China (and) Britain benefitted him through education” and he wished to “return (his) service to education.”