

OPENING SPEECH BY PROF. JÓNATAS E. M. MACHADO, DEAN, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

Esteemed Consul-General of Portugal in Macao and Hong Kong,
Dr. Alexandre Leitão,

Esteemed Vice-Rector of University of Macau, Professor Rui
Martins,

Esteemed Vice-Rector of University of Coimbra, Professor João
Nuno Calvão,

Esteemed Dean of Faculty of Law of University of Macau,
Professor Tong Io Cheng,

Distinguished Professor Manuel Lopes Porto, and all my dear
guests, colleagues, students and friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

It is a great pleasure to join you today in this important moment for both the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau and the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra. Our two institutions share not only a common language, but also a deep sense of academic mission, an appreciation for legal tradition, and a commitment to preparing future generations for the complex challenges of the global legal order.

Today's joint seminar is a powerful affirmation of that shared mission. It represents far more than an academic gathering: it is an expression of a long-standing partnership, a bridge between legal

cultures, and a testament to the value of sustained intellectual dialogue. By bringing together scholars, researchers, and students from our two faculties, we enrich our own perspectives and strengthen the fabric of Lusophone legal scholarship.

In a world in which legal systems increasingly intersect — across borders, economic frameworks, technological innovation, and societal transformation — collaboration is no longer optional; it is indispensable. Seminars such as this one create the space where new ideas emerge, where comparative approaches deepen understanding, and where academic communities grow closer. They enable us to combine Coimbra's centuries-old tradition of legal thought with Macau's unique role as a meeting point between civil law and Asian legal cultures.

Our joint academic initiatives are also a reminder that universities thrive when they work together. When we share research, debate current issues, and explore innovative solutions collaboratively, we not only advance knowledge but also prepare our students to become global jurists — professionals capable of thinking critically, acting responsibly, and engaging constructively with different legal and cultural frameworks.

Allow me, briefly, to acknowledge the inspiration that the life and work of Professor Manuel Carlos Lopes Porto continue to offer. His deep commitment to the common good, his belief in the importance of economic and legal systems grounded in justice and dignity, and his lifelong dedication to teaching remain touchstones for our academic community. But above all, he reminds us that scholarship is a collective endeavour — one strengthened through openness, cooperation, and shared pursuit of truth.

It is therefore fitting that we honour his legacy today not only with words, but through action — by engaging in the kind of cooperative academic work that he so deeply valued.

Looking ahead, the partnership between our two faculties has enormous potential. Joint seminars can grow into sustained research clusters, co-taught courses, student exchange programmes, and collaborative publications that reach audiences across the Portuguese-speaking world and beyond. Together, we can continue to cultivate a transnational academic community that reflects the values of openness, intellectual rigor, and mutual enrichment.

Let today's seminar be not only a continuation of past cooperation, but the beginning of a new phase — more structured, more ambitious, and more dynamic. Let it serve as a platform from which students and scholars from Macau and Coimbra can engage with one another in meaningful, lasting ways. And let it reaffirm our shared mission: to promote legal education of the highest quality and to contribute to a more just and humane society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for your presence, your contributions, and your commitment to advancing the ties between our institutions. May this seminar inspire us all, and may our collaboration grow ever stronger in the years ahead.

Thank you.

Jónatas E. M. Machado