

Mr Dean,  
Dear organisers,  
Dear Guests and participants  
Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to welcome you on behalf of the school of criminal justice of the Faculty to this 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium on Sino Swiss Evidence Science.

I would like first to thank my Colleagues for having organised this event, within the framework of the many activities they have developed during these last years on the specific topic of this conference, in particular with the Chinese partners of CUPL. We are pleased also to welcome some of the early Chinese' pillars of these collaborations and who have stimulated many fruitful exchanges.

Exploring Scientific Evidence and Judicial Proof by making international comparisons, extracting the common essence, while respecting differences in systems and cultures, is particularly important at a time where forensic science face many criticisms. We have received during the last years, and very recently, very concerning news from certain countries tending to limit dramatically, or even eliminate, some traditional forensic science area from Justice processes. We think that this has nothing to do with the information potential conveyed by forensic case data. This is mainly due to poor delivery of information to decision makers in specific situations, and poor understanding. Pessimistic messages are proliferating over forensic science, in a limited, and occasionally simplistic view on the discipline.

We are convinced that this is a big mistake. We believe in the value of forensic science. In particular, we believe in how it is capable of delivering relevant, transparent, robust, and balanced interpretation of information extracted from material collected at scenes, in order to assist administrative, criminal or civil Courts in making the best evidence-based decisions.

We can thus expect that such conference will find paths for reversing the vicious circle in order to create a virtuous one. It is however not an easy task, as the question is multi-faceted and complex. It necessitates to enter more offensively into fundamental issues, exactly as this is programmed in this conference

We hope that the environment provided by our School, which has an open and broad view on forensic science, will contribute to positively influence your discussions and debates. It is at least our most sincere and modest hope.

I also understand that interesting visits and social events will enrich the program and contribute to reinforce links and collaborative thinking. I am thus very confident that you will spend a high level, pleasant and optimistic scientific meeting at Lausanne.

Mr. Chief of the Chinese delegation, I am delighted to give you, as a welcome present, this book about the root of our School<sup>1</sup>. This is in particular the result of a fantastic work from my colleagues Christophe Champod, Pierre Margot et Eric Sapin.

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<sup>1</sup> C. Champod, D. Girardin, L. Lebart, P. Margot, J. Mathyer, N. Quinche et E. Sapin (2009), *Le Théâtre du crime*, Presses Polytechnique et Universitaires Romandes, Lausanne