

Schedule

Feb 27—Apr 9

group activities

Apr 10—Jun 30

took a legal placement in the New South Wales Office of the Legal Services Commissioner

Jul 2—Jul 13

took a legal placement in the Professional Standards Division of Law Institute of Victoria

The program provides a very good opportunity for young people in the legal profession to communicate with experts and peers in a different legal system, face to face. During the program, I learned some basic concepts of Australian common law system through an intensive course in Melbourne University, got a general idea about the structure, operation and features of Australian legal system through visits to various government departments, courts, agencies and institutions and, meetings with leaders of Australian legal profession, especially the one week of initial welcome and introduction to Australia and the Australian legal system in Canberra. I Was impressed by a different legal system which I only got some information from books, TV news, and Internet, through this close observation and interactive discussion with experts in the area of regulation of legal profession in Australia. And it is also wonderful to see, to hear, and to feel a kind of completely different culture so closely.

For more than two months, I was engaged in research about the regulation of legal profession in Australia through the placement in the New South Wales Office of Legal Services Commission, and on professional standards in the Law Institute of Victoria. Because of my experience in Beijing Municipal Lawyers Association, I am keen to learn how to improve the services provided by professional bodies to facilitate the healthy and stable development of the whole legal profession, rather than some specific sections of legislation or certain academic theories. From these activities, I got an increased understanding in the similarities and differences between the legal systems of China and Australia, which is the important and necessary base for the understanding of rule of law. I acknowledged that the legal profession of Australia was much more mature than that of China, in the aspects of market, management of legal practice, development path of legal practitioner, functions of professional associations, and the operation of the regulatory system.