

“The New Theoretical System of Criminal Theory in the Age of Globalization,”
Beijing, October 2007

The Chinese are in the process of developing a new theory of criminal law, leading up to the drafting of a new Chinese criminal code. The third international conference toward that end, entitled “The New Theoretical System of Criminal Theory in the Age of Globalization,” was held in Beijing during the last week of October 2007. Professor Paul H. Robinson was asked to appoint and organize the U.S. delegation, which included Professors Doug Berman from University of Texas, Joseph Kennedy for the University of North Carolina, and Michael Cahill of Brooklyn Law School, all of whom are well-known experts in criminal law theory or criminal law codification.

The Chinese have expressed an interest in other criminal theory systems, especially the German, but appear at the moment to be most influenced by the American system. The most active of the other delegations included the Russian, the Spanish, the French, and the Japanese, with quite a few other Asian participants.

Professor Robinson's book *Structure and Function in Criminal Law* (Oxford 1997) was translated into Chinese and was the subject of a Chinese-organized conference in 2004. His new book, *Distributive Principles for Criminal Liability and Punishment* (Oxford forthcoming 2008), is being translated into Chinese and Spanish.

