

PREFACE

With the evolution of the market-oriented economy as well as the increase in cross-border transactions, there is an urgent need to conduct research and comparisons of judicial systems and the role of law in development in Asian countries. The Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO) established two research committees in FY 2000: Committee on "Law and Development in Economic and Social Development" and Committee on "Judicial Systems in Asia." The former has focused on the role of law in social and economic development and sought to establish a legal theoretical framework therefor. The latter committee has conducted research on judicial systems and the ongoing reform process of these systems in Asian countries, with the aim of further analyzing their dispute resolution processes.

In order to facilitate the committees' activities, IDE has organized joint research projects with research institutions in seven Asian countries. This publication, named *IDE Asian Law Series*, is the outcome of the research conducted by respective counterparts. This series is composed of papers which correspond to the research theme of the abovementioned committees, i.e. studies on law and development in Indonesia and Philippines, and studies on judicial systems and reforms in China, India, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. For comparative study the latter papers include description of judiciary and judges, prosecutor/prosecuting attorney, advocate/lawyer, legal education, procedures and ADR with statistical information thereof.

We believe that this is an unprecedented work in its comprehensiveness, and hope that this publication will contribute as research material and for the further understanding of the legal issues we share.

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