

FOREWORD

by
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East Asia, as a region, has attained a leading position in the world economy. The pace of economic development in Japan, mainland China and the newly industrialised countries has been unprecedented, and the growth potential is still enormous. This development has definitely left its mark on the nature and volume of trade relations between East Asia and those other two leading economic regions in the world today: North America and Western Europe.

As commercial transactions are increasingly moulded by law, it is entirely apt to dedicate a new series to the laws and legal practices in East Asia.

The particular European-Asian perspective adopted in this series deserves a warm welcome, if only because of the historical linkages between many East Asian legal systems and the legal traditions of continental Europe.

I am confident that this series will prove to be a most helpful source of information for lawyers already handling legal work involving Asia. I do hope that the series will equally stimulate the interest amongst non-specialised lawyers in Asia and its legal framework for investment.

European business has come to realise that East Asia cannot be ignored. Their legal advisors should follow suit.

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