

PREFACE

It is a great privilege and a pleasure to be able to introduce the reader to the present publication which is dedicated to the prevailing nationality laws of a number of Asian countries.

When measured by the guidelines which are commonly applied in shaping the research and publication policy of the TMC Asser Institute, this publication may be deemed to be somewhat out of the ordinary: the Institute's current documentation programmes are very much attuned to analysing and classifying legal materials collected from European and, to some extent, North American sources, with the exception of the Institute's Department of International Commercial Arbitration, which, being the home base of the ICCA, extends its activities worldwide. This also applies to the Institute's research and publication programmes, and to the post-graduate training course organized by the Institute on behalf of the joint Dutch University Law Faculties.

This general limitation on the scope of the Institute's activities is largely determined by the fact that its resources are primarily geared towards the immediate needs of legal research and education in the nine participating Dutch Universities, and not, of course, by a lack of genuine interest in international legal developments elsewhere in the world, outside Europe and outside the North American continent.

Whenever the opportunity presents itself and the resources are available to embark upon a project which is not confined to the somewhat narrow field of research and documentation, the Institute is only too pleased to be able to take it on and so to assist in providing a broader basis upon which to conduct the discussion and evaluation of international legal issues.

The opportunity to engage upon the project which resulted in this extensive publication, presented itself when, together with some eminent colleagues from abroad, the editor, Professor Ko Swan Sik, Head of the Institute's Public International Law Department since the early days of its foundation and the widely respected Editor-in-Chief of the Netherlands Yearbook of International Law, initiated a scheme aimed at enhancing information on international law as viewed 'in an Asian perspective' and a decision was made to prepare a thorough study of the nationality regimes in various Asian legal systems.

The Institute feels deeply indebted to the various authors for their fine, scholarly contributions, as well as to the editor for lending, with so much skill and expertise, his legal and editorial talents to the compiling

of this book. It is indeed most gratifying that through the efforts of its Head of the Public International Law Department and of its departments for Documentation and Publication, the Institute has been able to support this project.

It is without doubt a privilege to be able to introduce this notable book and to congratulate the editor and his team of eminent scholars on the fine result of their joint efforts: a beautifully composed, nicely balanced and highly informative publication.

The Hague, June 1990

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