Law and Legal Institutions of Asia

Traditions, adaptations and innovations

The study of Asia and its plural legal systems is of increasing significance, both within and outside Asia. Lawyers, whether in Australia, America or Europe, or working within an Asian jurisdiction, require a sound knowledge of how the law operates across this fast-growing and diverse region.

Law and Legal Institutions of Asia is the first book to offer a comprehensive assessment of 11 key jurisdictions in Asia – China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore and the Philippines. Written by academics and practitioners with particular expertise in their state or territory, each chapter covers:

- the historical factors that shaped the country’s legal system and traditions
- the sources and nature of the laws today
- the key legal institutions, including what bodies have law-making and adjudicative authority
- the legal cultures which determine what people think about the law, specifically, their attitudes, opinions and expectations with regard to the legal system,
- the legal profession, and new directions for the nation’s laws and legal institutions.

This breakthrough approach facilitates cross-jurisdictional comparisons and gives essential insights into how law functions in different ways across the region, and in each of the individual jurisdictions.

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Edited by
E Ann Black and Gary F Bell
To the memory of my mother and to my father, who together opened the world to me. Mille fois merci.

Gary F Bell

To the memory of my father and to my mother, both of whom first introduced me to Asia and have always inspired me.

E Ann Black (nee Hart)
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