

# Foreword to Volume One

## Globalization of Social Conditions and the Law

Koji Ono  
Dean of the Graduate School of Law  
Daito Bunka University

The present day law is markedly diversifying, complicating and changing with the socioeconomic development. Also, with the progress of globalization of social conditions, the laws of the world are also changing similarly. The family law, my specialty, is said to have the character as a native and is therefore considered to be subject to little change.

In these days, however, even with this family law, a view on marriage, divorce, the parental relation, etc. is being generalized and is becoming common with the change of social and cultural environment and of family conditions following the high economic growth of the world and this is a noteworthy phenomenon.

Also, the matters which are likely to become issues such as the increase of divorce of old aged couples and the appearance of single mothers, division of property at the time of divorce, protection of virtual marriage (common-law marriage), dispute on parental authority and bringing-up of the child, domestic violence, artificial insemination and external insemination, childbirth by a surrogate mother, the support of aged parents and care of their property are becoming common worldwide. This means that the future legislation, revision or study of laws inevitably requires researches in or studies of foreign laws by the comparative method.

The Ministry of Justice of the Japanese government published a draft of revision of the civil law in 1990 and the draft was completed with reference to foreign laws. For the reason that the revision of the civil law was drafted with reference to foreign laws, the Ministry of Justice says that grasping and using as reference of the ideology and concept underlying the laws of Western countries is necessary and useful for reviewing the legal system in Japan.

This journal is published indeed for this purpose and with the intention of transmitting the laws of Japan to the world so that it can be some help to the people who have even a little interest in the Japanese laws.