

## EDITORIAL

Several contributions on judicial reform in Japan form the core of this issue, continuing in part the discussions on the new Japanese law school system, which was the focus of issue no. 20 (2005). The guest editors from Belgium and Japan, who organized and co-edited these contributions, provide a separate introduction to their project hereafter.

The ARTICLES begin with a contribution by *Harald Baum* and *Eva Schwittek* on law and practice of conciliation (*chôtei*). The article comes as the second part of the overview on traditions of consensus-oriented disputed resolution in Japan started by the authors in issue no. 26 (2008). Then, *Kunihiro Nakata* and *Christian Förster* in their respective articles discuss new trends in the dynamic field of consumer protection in Japan, the latter offering at the same time a comparison with developments in Germany. *Maximilian Lentz* complements their considerations with an introduction to the new interest group complaints system.

*Eiji Takahashi* and *Tatsuya Sakamoto* present a detailed analysis of executive compensation in Japanese enterprises. *Susanne Olberg* in her contribution deals with Japanese case law on state liability for legislative acts from a comparative perspective. A lecture by *Makoto Ida* examines legal methodology choosing Japanese criminal law as an example. Taking up once more the leitmotif of this issue, *Colin P.A. Jones* gives a rather critical account of the status of the new Japanese law schools, many of which are threatened by substantive cuts only five years after their establishment.

In the CASE LAW section *Masahiko Asada* and *Trevor Ryan* discuss two recent decisions by the Supreme Court on war reparations. These cases are of historical importance as the Supreme Court, as opposed to tendencies in case law of the lower courts, clearly shifts this problem back into the political sphere.

Reviews of three Western publications and two reports, one on a visit to a Japanese rehabilitation center, one on a young scholars' forum in Tokyo, conclude the issue.

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