

3. Family Law

1. On September 4 through 15, 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing, the People's Republic of China. One hundred eighty-nine countries took part in the intergovernmental conference. The participants at the World Conference amounted to more than 17,000. Preceding this Conference, the NGO (non-government organizations) forum was held beginning on August 30, 1995. This forum was attended by 30,000 people. There were vigorous discussions on the themes of elimination of discrimination against women and the empowerment and advancement of women. On the final day, the Conference adopted a Platform for Action which incorporated the Nairobi Conference Strategies and announced the Beijing Declaration, which is dedicated to advancing the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity.

2. In this borderless world, researchers and scholars in many countries have researched jointly on common themes, and had international scientific-scholarly exchanges in the field of Family Law.

(1) A symposium which had the theme "Comparative Family Law in Japan and Korea" was held at Shigakukaikan, the Private School Association Hall, Tokyo, on July 31, 1995. Ten participants from Japan and Korea reported on respective social conditions and compared the topics of law concerning marriage between blood relatives; divorce, adoption; inheritance and support.

(2) The Research Committee on Sociology of Law of the International Sociological Association held its annual meeting at the University of Tokyo, Tokyo, on August 1 through 4, 1995. The theme was "Legal Culture: Encounters and Transformations". In the Family Law section of the meeting, Japanese reporters gave the following presentations:

"Transformation of the Family and Social Welfare System in Contemporary Japan" (Sumitaka Harada, Professor, Tokyo University); "The Bond between Children and Parents after Divorce"

(Waichiro Iwashi, Professor, Waseda University); “Male Violence against Intimate Partners and Legal Responses in Japan” (Tamie Kaino, Professor, Toho Gakuen Women’s Collage); “Child Abuse in Japan” (Sue Kyo, Associate Professor, Kanagawa Institute of Technology).

(3) Professor Cretney, a noted English professor of Family Law, gave a lecture at Waseda University on November 11, 1995. The theme was “The Elderly and the Law in England”.

3. The 12th National Conference of *the Socio-Legal Studies on Family Issues* was held at Waseda University on November 12, 1995. The theme was “The Guardian for Protecting the Rights of the Elderly”.

Introduction, by Aiko Noda (Attorney)

Reports

(1) Some Problems in the Administration of Property for the Elderly, by Hiroto Dogauchi (Associate Professor, Tokyo University).

(2) The Matter of Protecting the Rights of the Elderly from a Social Welfare Viewpoint, by Kiyoko Hagiwara (Professor, Nagano University).

(3) Declaration of Incompetence or Quasi-incompetence of the Elderly in Family Court Practice, by Seiichiro Nishioka (Judge, Tokyo Family Court) and Kazuo Takemura (Probation Officer, Tokyo Family Court).

(4) Amendment of the Adult Guardianship Law and Its Impact on Family Law, Yuh Kamitani (Professor, Hiroshima University).

(5) How to Make a Diagnosis of Age-associated Dementia and Related Issues, by Kazuo Hasegawa (President, St. Mariana University School of Medicine).

(6) Problems in the Law for the Elderly in Contemporary Japan, by Jun Masuda (Counselor, Ministry of Justice).

Discussion by chairpersons, Aiko Noda and Teruaki Tayama (Professor, Waseda University).

4. Now, in Japan, the rapidly aging society has resulted in many problems, such as adult guardianship, conservatorship and public insurance for taking care of the elderly. The Property Committee

of the Judicial Council of the Civil Law Division has begun to reconsider the system, including adjudication of incompetence, since June, 1995. I hope the Adult Guardianship Law will be enacted promptly taking into consideration the developments on Adult Guardianship in Europe and the United States.

Prof. MASAYUKI TANAMURA

4. Law of Civil Procedure and Bankruptcy

The Japanese Association of the Law of Civil Procedure held its 65th General Meeting at Toyo University on May 20 and 21, 1995. The titles of individual reports and the symposium were as follows:

[Individual Reports]

(1) The Conditions for the Order of *Référé* of France, by Koichi Honda (Professor, Kanto Gakuin University).

(2) The Present State and Problems of the Family Court System with respect to the Scope of Practical Use of Partition of Estate Proceedings, by Mayumi Ohashi (Associate Professor, Yamaguchi University).

(3) Views concerning the Principle of Distribution of Debtor's Property under the Bankruptcy Act, by Masashi Nakanishi (Associate Professor, Kansei Gakuin University).

(4) Aspects of Legal Aid Cases, by Takashi Yamashiro (Professor, Toin University of Yokohama).

(5) Expansion and its Limit of Standing, by Tsuyoshi Hara (Professor, Sapporo Gakuin University).

(6) The Substantive Functions of Clerks in the Process of Fact Finding, by Kiichi Nishino (Professor, Niigata University).

(7) Limitation of Jōkoku Appeals in Germany, by Saburo Katano (Associate Professor, Aichi University).

(8) For the Reinstatement of Action for Confirmation of a