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Preface

With effect from this issue, the *Asian Journal of Comparative Law* (the Journal) is published with Cambridge University Press by the National University of Singapore for the Asian Law Institute (ASLI). ASLI is a consortium of more than 70 law schools and institutions across Asia and beyond, specialising in Asian law. The Journal is a leading organ in this field, one which finds itself much better served following the creation of a number of new journals such as the *Asian Journal of International Law* and the *Asian Journal of Law and Society*.

As Asia develops its economies, its societies, and its legal systems and engages ever more deeply with the rest of the world, the increasing emphasis on the study of its laws, both in Asia and elsewhere, is both natural and desirable. The Journal aims to supply this increasing need as well as to develop, by example and by providing an outlet, the capacity of scholars, in Asia and beyond, who specialise in Asian law, to publish outstanding work contributing to our understanding of the subject from a base of detailed local knowledge.

Moving as we now do to CUP, the Journal will gain access to a wider readership and it is our intention to establish the Journal as a leader in the fields of Asian law and comparative law. We encourage submission of articles from scholars belonging to both ASLI member schools and non-ASLI member schools worldwide. We aim to provide a generous space for discussion of Asian law topics in all areas of law.

The Journal has taken on a number of highly qualified new editors who are drawn both from NUS's Faculty of Law and from other ASLI member schools. By this means the Journal reflects the membership of ASLI itself as well as adding to its masthead expertise covering all of Northeast, Southeast, and South Asia. ASLI membership is open to institutions only; those interested in joining this expanding network specialising in Asian law should write to asli@nus.edu.sg.

In the present issue there are four articles (by Ben Chapman-Schmidt, Rehan Abeyratne, Gabriela Marti, and Simona Novaretti) whose work was facilitated by the Young Scholars' Workshop organised by the Centre for Asian Legal Studies at NUS, in conjunction with ASLI, in December 2013. It is a particular pleasure for us to publish this work by younger scholars.

The Editorial Team

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