

Remedies for Aging Japan: Efficiency and Effectiveness of Legal Reforms
by Professor Caslav Pejovic
Kyushu University, Faculty of Law

Chaired by Associate Professor Gary F. Bell, Faculty of Law, NUS

17 March 2017, Friday, 12.00pm – 1.30pm

Lee Sheridan Conference Room, Eu Tong Sen Building, NUS (Bukit Timah Campus)

ABSTRACT

One of the most serious challenges facing Japan is the rapid aging of its population. While the aging problem is not limited to Japan, it is most dramatic here. Japan has become the world's most aged nation and has been categorized as a hyper-aged society. The problem that Japan is facing is a lack of workers rather than a lack of jobs. Or, maybe even worse: there will not be enough workers to support the rising numbers of pensioners. Population decline is likely to create a serious workforce shortage and put pressure on the pension system. Although it is difficult to reverse the declining trend of Japan's working population, the labour shortage problem can be remedied by employing workers more efficiently. The government has been very active in trying to remedy the impact of the aging population on the labour market. It has taken action in different areas, including trying to promote more efficient use of elderly employees and women, and opening more possibilities for foreigners. To promote these policies, the government has heavily relied on legislation. In many cases, however, the problems don't lie in legislation, but in its implementation. Experience with implementing legal reforms aimed at remedying the aging problem in Japan has demonstrated that sometimes legislation can be used as an efficient tool in enforcing government policies and can guide changes in a desired direction, while at other times the law has its limitations. To make an assessment of the efficiency and limitations of law reforms, the research will try to identify factors that play an important role in the process of implementation. Particular attention will be given to two factors: the level of the commitment of the government, and the compatibility of legislation with social norms.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Caslav Pejovic is Professor of Law at the Faculty of Law, Kyushu University. He graduated in law at the University of Montenegro (B.A.), has an LL.M. degree from the University of Belgrade and Kyoto University, and a Ph.D. degree from Zagreb University. His teaching and research interests include maritime law, comparative law, transnational commercial law, foreign investment law, corporate governance and labour law. He is the member of several international academic and professional associations, such as the International Academy of Comparative Law (IACL), the International Academy of Commercial and Consumers Law (IACCL), the East Asian Law and Society (EALS), and the Japanese Association of Maritime Law. A number of his papers are published in the world's leading journals, and some are translated into other languages. He is the author of the chapter in the book "Transnational Commercial Law" (eds. Roy Goode, Herbert Kronke and Ewan McKendrick) published by the Oxford University Press in 2015. He has also served as arbitrator at the ICC.

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REGISTRATION

There is no registration fee for this seminar but seats are limited.

Light lunch will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Closing Date: **10 March 2017, Friday**

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