

FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Institute of Comparative Law, Waseda University, has just completed the first number of *the Waseda Bulletin of Comparative Law* for our foreign readers.

The primary purpose of publishing this Bulletin is to respond to the ever-growing interest abroad in Japan and in Japanese law and at the same time to introduce the academic activities of our Institute.

The idea of publishing this Bulletin was originally conceived by my predecessor Prof. Toshiya Yatoh while he was serving as director of the Institute. On the basis of his proposal, the Institute's Executive Committee made a decision in July, 1979 to publish an annual bulletin.

The Bulletin contains special features by members of the Institute on comparative law, information on Japanese law, trends of major legislation and judicial decisions, trends of academic societies and research, introduction of various reference materials, and others. It also introduces the research activities conducted by various groups belonging to the Institute. Since this is the first issue, we have included various data concerning the Institute including a list of members, by-laws and other information.

The Board of Editors of the Bulletin (Chairman: Prof. Seizo

Tadagawa) made up of the director, research staff members of the Institute representing various law divisions and other specially nominated ones of the Institute, took charge of the editing. With regard to the information concerning Japanese law, representatives of the various law divisions with the cooperation of their assistants compiled the information in the Japanese language which was then translated into English.

Former Director Prof. Yatoh who is an expert on Anglo-American law greatly contributed toward the publication of this Bulletin with his advice on various matters including the translation.

Mr. Yoshimasa Sumino, a lecturer at this university and former editor-in-chief of the Mainichi Daily News, took care of the translations except the feature articles. Taking this opportunity, I thank him for his contribution.

Waseda University greets the centennial anniversary of its founding in 1882. We are hoping that our next number of the Bulletin will be even better than our first, making progress hand in hand with Waseda University for the coming 100 years. It is our sincere wish that the Bulletin will promote understanding among all concerned.

OSAMU KANAZAWA

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