



The Australian Network for Japanese Law

<websites> <http://law.anu.edu.au/anjel>
www.anjel.unsw.edu.au
www.law.usyd.edu.au/anjel
<e-mail> anjel@law.usyd.edu.au

ANJeL Newsletter 2004/1

The Australian Network for Japanese Law (ANJeL) has been quite busy over the Australian summer.

ANJeL EVENTS

1. ANJeL has announced its annual international conference on Japanese Law to be hosted at the University of New South Wales on 21-22 June 2004. Please see the mirror websites for more information, including a growing list of presenters and attendees.

Eg <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/anjel/content/anjel_events_up.htm>

ANJeL RESEARCH VISITORS

2. ANJeL welcomes applications for short- and long-term research visits. Please see our website for a list of previous and planned visitors, including uploaded examples of their research, and information for applying for a research visitorship.

Eg <http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/anjel/content/anjel_people_vis.htm>

ANJeL PEOPLE

3. Mr Hitoshi Nasu has joined ANJeL as Executive Coordinator. Please feel free to communicate with him - and of course us - in either English or Japanese (anjel@law.usyd.edu.au) about ANJeL events or activities.

4. ANJeL's new Executive Board met in January to discuss ANJeL's future directions. ANJeL directors acknowledge the excellent contributions by Professor Mal Smith, Professor Veronica Taylor, Professor Masako Kamiya, Consul General Yasuaki Nogawa and Michael Ryland (and input from Mr Akira Kawamura at earlier meetings with the directors).

5. ANJeL Associate, Mr Phil Jamieson of Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu in Tokyo, offers a daily digest of Japanese law related articles from English newspapers in Japan. A sample edition is appended below. If you would like to receive a copy of Phil's email bulletin, please contact Phil (philip_jamieson@noandt.com).

"JAPANESE LAW LINKS" JOINT VENTURE

6. ANJeL and Nagashima Ohno & Tsunematsu have agreed in principle to update and expand the <www.japaneselawlinks.info> website to add, in particular, extensive INTERNET LINKS TO online translations into English of Japanese legislation. We will notify ANJeL members when the new site is unveiled.



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JOB OPPORTUNITY

7. A major Australian law firm is interested in receiving applications from an Australian lawyer with approximately 2 years' experience, for a position involving secondment to a trading company in Osaka, followed by work with the firm. If interested, please contact anjel@law.usyd.edu.au with some brief background information, to be forwarded to the law firm.

STAYING IN CONTACT

8. Please stay in contact with us via our recently revamped ANJeL mirrored websites (www.law.usyd.edu.au/anjel; <http://law.anu.edu.au/anjel>; or www.anjel.unsw.edu.au). We will also begin offering a monthly e-newsletter of Japanese law related news, edited by subject category from Phil's daily bulletins (please request from anjel@law.usyd.edu.au). We also have uploaded and published an English-version brochure about ANJeL. Please email us with your postal address if you would like copies for yourself and/or to distribute to colleagues. A Japanese translation is also available on the websites.

English-version brochure:

<<http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/anjel/documents/ANJeL%20DL%20flyer%20V.%202021.pdf>>

Japanese-version brochure:

<<http://www.law.usyd.edu.au/anjel/documents/ANJeL%20Japanese%20Brochure%20Ver2.pdf>>

9. Finally, remember that ANJeL is YOUR network. Your ideas about what we can do to help you with your research and study of Australian-Japanese law are important to us. Always feel free to contact us (anjel@law.usyd.edu.au) with your ideas for future projects and feedback on past events.

Kent Anderson
Luke Nottage
Leon Wolff

ANJeL Co-Directors



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*****A Sample of Phil's e-mail bulletin*****

LEGISLATION

Cabinet approves bill on citizen judges

The Cabinet on Tuesday adopted nine bills related to judicial reform, including legislation that will create a new trial system under which citizen judges will work with professional judges on serious criminal cases such as murder. The envisaged law on citizen judges will go into force within five years after the Diet passes the bill, meaning the new system will be introduced by 2009 if the current Diet session enacts the legislation, according to government officials. FULL STORY: (Under "Politics")

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/index-e.htm>

Citizen judges face burden

A new system under which citizen judges and professional judges will try serious criminal cases such as murder may place a heavy burden on the public. The role is mandatory and is considered to have a workload similar to that of national civil servants. The penalty for leaking information is up to one year in prison or a fine up to 500,000 yen. This punishment contrasts with regulations regarding professional judges, who are exempt from legal penalties. Although the service will be mandatory a candidate would be allowed to decline for "unavoidable reasons" to be defined in a government ordinance in which the government task force is planning to incorporate considerations of personal freedom. FULL STORY: (Under "Politics")

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/index-e.htm>

Coalition readies bill to bar North Korea ships

The two ruling parties agreed at an executive meeting Wednesday to seek passage during the current Diet session of a bill aimed at giving Japan another tool to impose economic sanctions unilaterally on North Korea. The bill would empower the government to ban port calls by vessels it designates at a Cabinet meeting as "necessary for the nation's peace and public security."

FULL STORY:

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20040304a3.htm>

BUSINESS

Japan-Mexico FTA flirts with denouement



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Japan and Mexico hope to reach a basic agreement on a free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of the month, despite talks having entered their final phase with a number of issues outstanding, sources said. Progress is finally being made on industrial products, which had taken a back seat to the agricultural issue. The talks are currently focused on how Mexico's tariff on general-purpose products can be gradually lowered over a number of years, although officials have agreed to make efforts to eliminate the tariff on other steel products soon. FULL STORY:
<http://www.asahi.com/english/business/TKY200403040134.html>

GENERAL INTEREST

Ministry to push extended leaves from work

The Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry is studying whether to introduce long leaves at companies to allow people to rebuild their careers and lifestyles.

A ministry study group is looking into the possibility of six-month to one-year leaves without wages. The group will compile a report this spring, which the ministry will use to study measures to promote the system, the officials said. FULL STORY:
<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/getarticle.pl5?nn20040304b6.htm>
