



LUNCH SEMINAR

on the Japanese Economy and Society

at the Maison franco-japonaise

Does Law Matter in Japan?

The Emerging Role of Law, Lawyers, and Legal Institutions in the Revitalization of Japanese Society

Gerald McALINN

Professor (Business Law), Law School, Keio University

Discussant

Isabelle GIRAUDOU

The Research Institute at the French-Japanese House

Wednesday November 24th, 2010, from 12:30 pm to 2 pm
Maison franco-japonaise, room 601 (6th floor)

Summary

Japan has long been perceived as a society where law plays only a relatively minor and secondary role to other more powerful social forces, such as collective values and peer pressure, deriving from a tradition of village society (*mura-shakai*). While there is truth in the stereotype, the profound legal reforms instituted over the last 20 years (mainly driven by the bursting of the "Bubble Economy" and the pressures of globalization) have led to a dramatic increase in the importance of law, lawyers, and legal institutions. Law may not yet operate in Japan in the same way as it does in other industrialized nations, but it can no longer be ignored or considered as merely a secondary force.

Short Biography of Gerald McALINN



Gerald McAlinn is a Philadelphia, PA native who has lived and worked in Japan for over 25 years. He has a J.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and an LL.M. degree in Public International Law from the University of Cambridge (Trinity College). Jerry worked as a foreign lawyer

at Anderson, Mori & Rabinowitz (now Anderson, Mori & Tomotsune) and then as the regional general counsel for two major multinational corporations (ARCO Chemical Asia Pacific and Nippon Motorola) before entering academia on a full-time basis in 1993. He was as a visiting professor at Tokyo University and the founding Director of the Temple Law Program in Japan. He has taught at Aoyama Gakuin University, Waseda University, the National Tax College, Meiji University, and the International School of Management. He has been a tenured professor of law at Keio

Law School since 2004. In addition to teaching and writing, Jerry maintains an active consulting and dispute resolution practice. He serves on the board of over 15 companies and non-profit organizations and is listed as an arbitrator with multiple arbitration centers throughout the Asia Pacific region and the U.S. He is a frequent speaker at conferences and corporate events, and provides clients with a wide variety of training programs, including negotiations, contract drafting and review, and compliance/risk management. He is the author of numerous books and articles including, *Japanese Business Law* (Kluwer Law International, 2007); *Comparative Law: Law and the Legal Process in Japan* (Carolina Academic Press, 2003; 2nd ed. expected in 2011); *Introduction to American Law* (Carolina Academic Press, 1st ed. 2005; 2nd ed. 2010); and *The Business Guide to Japan* (Butterworth-Heinemann, 1996). Personal Homepage: <http://mcialinn.com/>

Short Biography of Isabelle GIRAUDOU



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- Associate Researcher, The Advanced Institute for Law & Politics, School of Law, Hokkaido University
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With the generous support of the Economic Section of the French Embassy and the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan.



What is the Lunch Seminar?

This typical event has been organized at the Maison-Franco Japonaise (Nichi-Futsu Kaikan) – Room 601 (6F) from 12.30 to 14.00, since 2004 with the generous support from the Economic Section of the French Embassy and the French Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Japan. For more information, please visit the website of the seminar : http://www.mfj.gr.jp/lunch_seminar/lunch_seminar.html

Please note that this is a "brown bag lunch seminar" (please bring your sandwiches or "bento").

How to attend the Lunch Seminar ?

The participation to the Lunch Seminar is free but **registration is strictly required**. Please apply by e-mail to : mikasa@mfj.gr.jp ; or by fax (03-5421-7652) specifying your :

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|--------------------------|----------|
| – name | – adress |
| – company or institution | – phone |
| – position | – e-mail |

NB : The presentation will be followed by a discussion with the participants (in English, no translation).

How to get there ?



Nichifutsu Kaikan (MFJ) : Shibuya-ku, Ebisu, 3-9-25

▷ From the Ebisu JR station take the Skywalk Exit, turn left and walk 5 mn alongside Yebisu Garden Place.

