

Editorial

This issue comprises contributions on labour law and industrial relations in very different places in various parts of the world: First of all, Michael A. Yanou reviews the rules for the registration of trade unions in Cameroon in the context of obligations assumed when the country ratified ILO Convention no. 87 in 1960. He criticizes both the substantive law and bureaucratic rules and practices for undermining the ILO rules of freedom of association and other obligations assumed under international law.

Two country reports from East Asia follow, dealing with highly interesting matters: Jafar Suryomenggolo explores the drafting process of independent Indonesia's first major piece of labour legislation, *Undang Undang Kerdja* 1948 (Labour Act 1948). The author shows that the Act was a product of the identification, construction, and regulation of labour at a time when the revolutionary Indonesian State was consolidating its power over society.

Md. Saiful Karim analyses the violation of labour rights in the shipbreaking yards of Bangladesh and identifies the major issues relating to enforcement of labour rights in this sector of the Bangladesh economy where regulation is almost totally absent.

Less exotic, but equally stimulating, is the paper by Kevin Purse and Robert Guthrie dealing with workers' compensation in Australia. After outlining previous attempts to develop a national workers' compensation framework, they turn to a consideration of more recent policy and legal developments which have contributed to the emerging regulatory realignment of workers' compensation laws and policy and identify the major constraints on the drive for a national regulatory framework.

The issue closes with two papers from Europe: Alice Le Flanchec and Jaques Rojot discuss Alternative Dispute Resolution in labour relations at IBM France. In contrast with the United States and Canada, mediation and arbitration are rarely used in France for resolving individual or collective labour disputes. It is therefore interesting to study such voice procedures in labour relations in France and analyse their impact on procedural justice and equity within the company.

In Sweden, on the other hand, members of an employer's family are exempted from the Employment Protection Act. In her paper on family ties in Swedish employment law, Catharina Calleman shows that this typically increases the dependence of an employer's spouse, counteracting the aim of mutual autonomy between spouses in

Swedish family law. The author then asks which societal values are mirrored by this exemption and what effects the exclusion has on family members today, in both legal and practical terms.

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