

# GOOD GOVERNANCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## International Norms and Chinese Perspectives

Edited by Sarah Biddulph and Ljiljana Biuković



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# Contents

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List of Tables / ix

Foreword / xi

*Pitman B. Potter*

List of Abbreviations / xv

- 1 International Good Governance Norms between the Global and the Local: China, Transparency, and Accountability / 3**

*Sarah Biddulph and Ljiljana Biuković*

## **Part 1: International Principles of Good Governance, Transparency, and Accountability**

- 2 Belts That Fasten Roads to Prosperity and Development: Transparency and Governance of New International Banks / 47**

*Ljiljana Biuković*

- 3** Corporate Legal Consciousness in Investor-State Dispute Settlement and the United Nations' Responsibility to Respect Human Rights: New Challenges for Global Governance / 92  
*Lesley A. Jacobs*
  - 4** Regulatory Change, Good Governance, and Fair and Equitable Treatment in International Investment Law / 112  
*Moshe Hirsch*
  - 5** Canada-Colombia Free Trade Agreement and Human Rights Impact Assessments: Coordinating Compliance between International Trade, Human Rights, Labour Rights, and Good Governance in Colombia / 152  
*Alison Yule*
  - 6** Transparency Obligations in International Investment and Trade Treaties: Governance Reforms in Shanghai's Pilot Free Trade Zone / 183  
*Wang Haifeng*
- Part 2: Case Studies from China: Domestic Engagement with Good Governance Norms**
- 7** Transparency and Accountability in Governance in China: Evaluating Legal Reforms / 217  
*Sarah Biddulph and Wang Haifeng*
  - 8** The Concept of Public Participation: Planning and Housing Resumption Decisions in Shanghai / 257  
*Sarah Biddulph*
  - 9** The Impact of Transparency and Accountability Mechanisms on Bureaucratic Inertia: A Case Study of Work Safety Regulation / 291  
*Sarah Biddulph*

- 10** New Trends in Promoting Capacity in  
Environmental Governance in China / 323  
*He Weidong*
- 11** Who Are the Important Actors in Shaping Good  
Governance, Transparency, and Accountability  
Principles? / 348  
*Sarah Biddulph and Ljiljana Biuković*
- Contributors / 355
- Index / 359

# Tables

---

- 5.1 Violations committed against the life, liberty, and integrity of trade union members in Colombia, 2010–15 / 170
- 5.2 Violations committed against the life, liberty, and integrity of trade union members in Colombia in 2015, according to their economic sector / 170
- 5.3 Demographic of allegedly liable perpetrators of anti-union violence in Colombia, 2015 / 171
- 8.1 Housing relocation situation in Shanghai, 1995–2013 / 271

# Foreword

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PITMAN B. POTTER

This volume examines emerging issues of good governance reforms in the context of implementing international trade and human rights standards. The book presents research developed in the course of the Asia Pacific Dispute Resolution (APDR) program on understanding integrated compliance with international trade and human rights standards from a comparative perspective. Since 2009, the APDR project has pursued conceptual understanding and policy analysis around the coordinated performance of international standards on trade and human rights in the Asia Pacific region, with particular attention to Canada, China, India, Indonesia, and Japan. The APDR project is based at the Peter A. Allard School of Law and the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia (UBC) and involves a collaborative network of colleagues from UBC and from partner institutions in North America, Asia, and Australia.

Good governance reforms provide possible solutions to the ongoing challenge of coordinating local compliance with international trade and human rights standards. This volume examines governance reforms at both the international and local levels in light of conceptual foundations on good governance. As the editors of this volume point out, good governance reforms involve internal dimensions affecting institutional performance as well as external elements involving relations between international standards and local institutions. Both of these dimensions are integral to resolving and, where possible, preventing international, regional, and sub-national disputes over issues of trade and human rights. Good governance reforms can

also help reduce transactional, operational, and opportunity costs resulting from international disputes that make existing relationships more complex and costly, require significant management costs, and distract public and private sector leaders from other more productive pursuits.

The book is part of a group of five edited volumes examining different aspects of trade and human rights performance presented by the APDR project and to be published in the UBC Press series on globalization, international law, and legal culture. The topics for the five volumes involve the interaction of trade policy with: 1) human rights in labour; 2) human rights in health; 3) the right to development; 4) dilemmas of poverty and income inequality; and 5) government accountability and transparency. The work is characterized by a high degree of interdisciplinarity while focused on questions of legal culture, international law, and globalization in the countries that compose the Asia Pacific region. The books are grounded in original empirical research as well as qualitative and quantitative analysis relating to international trade and human rights.

Research for this volume, and the APDR project of which it is a part, has been supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada under its Major Collaborative Research Initiatives program for which my colleagues and I are deeply thankful. The APDR project has benefited immensely from input and advice from an International Advisory Board comprising the following individuals:

- Jack Austin (former government leader in the Senate, former president of the Canada China Business Council)
- Joseph Caron (former Canadian high commissioner to India, ambassador to China, and ambassador to Japan)
- Thomas Cottier (former managing director of the World Trade Institute, Berne, Switzerland)
- The Honourable Irwin Cotler (former member of parliament, former minister of justice)
- Ernst-Ulrich Petersmann (European University, Florence, Italy)
- John Hogarth (Peter A. Allard School of Law, UBC)
- Jonathan Fried (coordinator for international economic relations, Global Affairs Canada, former ambassador and permanent representative of Canada to the World Trade Organization, Geneva, Switzerland).

This project has included a wide range of graduate students contributing as researchers, analysts, and writers. The work on this volume was

greatly enhanced by assistance from graduate students Erika Cedillo Corral, Li Guo, Amy Lai, Yue Liu, Chenjie Ma, Cody Rei-Anderson, Shuang Ren, Alistair Robertson, Laura Wilson, Alison Yule, and Erica Zacharias. I have been privileged to serve as principal investigator for the APDR project. I am grateful to the many colleagues from across our research network who contributed their time and expertise to strengthen the work we have done together. Particular thanks go to Project Manager Rozalia Mate for her stellar contributions to the operational details of the project.