

références les auteurs donnent une vue d'ensemble sur le droit (écrit et coutumier) burkinabè, sur la jurisprudence, sur les projets de code, sur les rapports des séminaires et des groupes de travail touchant les domaines divers de droit et sur la doctrine (thèses, mémoires, articles, notes de jurisprudence). C'est une collection d'information impressionnante et fondamentale pour le développement et la défense du droit au service de l'intérêt commun.

*Gabriele Oestreich*

*Jürgen Rüländ* (ed.)

**Urban Government and Development in Asia: Readings in Subnational Development**  
(Materialien zu Entwicklung und Politik 33)

München, Köln, London, Weltforum-Verlag, 1988, iv + 270 p., DM 49,-

Compared to other fields of development research, local government has received relatively little scholarly attention. For a long time local government research in Third World countries was the pre-occupation of specialists working in the field of public administration and development management, whereas, unlike in Northern America and Europe, political scientists have chosen to neglect the topic. Even today, theories on local government in developing countries are virtually non-existent. But even less ambitious endeavors, such as attempts to classify and systematize phenomena and processes of local government beyond their legal-formal framework, are not frequently encountered in existing literature. In the absence of a good stock of comparative studies, the eclectic case study still remains the predominant species of Southeast Asian local government research.

This reader, edited by Jürgen Rüländ, author of numerous publications on local government, urbanization, political and socio-economic affairs in Southeast Asia, endeavors to stimulate the debate on this long neglected field. This book brings together practitioners and scholars with various professional backgrounds such as law, political science, urban planning, public administration and economics. Hence, the diversity of methodological premises which also accounts for the lack of uniform argumentation among the various articles. Different viewpoints are offered: sometimes to the extent that they even appear to be contradictory. This reader provides a detailed discussion of existing approaches to the study of urban government in Asia and pleads for new theoretical and conceptional directions. Apart from traditional issues such as central-local relations, finance, planning, personnel management and citizen participation, this book also tackles new themes such as urban environmental problems and information management capacities of local governments.

The contributions to the reader represent a combination of theoretical as well as empirical research and of comparative work as well as case studies. Chapter One (Jürgen Rüländ's "A Critical Review of Theoretical Approaches to Urban Government in Southeast Asia") reveals the dominant position of the legal-institutional approach, which, however, has contributed little to theoretical and methodological innovation in local government research, whereas, unlike Northern America and Europe, comparative studies and community power research have been greatly neglected in the Asian context.

Comparative studies are found in Chapter Two (Jürgen Rüländ, "Urban Government and Development in Southeast Asian Regional Cities. Issues and Problems in Dispersing Urban Growth"), Chapter Three (Nurul Amin's investigation of "Patterns of Physical and Institutional Development in Asian Cities") and Chapter Four (Phang Siew Nooi, "Municipal Councils in Peninsular Malaysia after Restructuring: Issues and Problems"). Chapter Five (Gaudioso C. Sosmena's discussion of "General Supervision of Philippine Cities: Limits and Opportunities for Local Autonomy"), Chapter Six (Goh Ban Lee's "Urban Environmental Problems: A New Challenge to Local Governments in Malaysia - The Case of Penang Island") and Chapter Seven (Ballabh Prased Acharya, "Urban Planning in an Indian Intermediate City: Experiences with Plot Reconstitution in Trichur") are of the case study type.

In order to overcome the long-standing metropolitan bias in local government research, emphasis is given to lower order urban centers both as shown above from a comparative as well as a case study perspective. By offering possible solutions and policy recommendations, the reader also intends to serve as reference material for practitioners.

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*Rolf Hanisch*

### **Philippinen**

Beck'sche Reihe, Aktuelle Länderkunde, 1989

Das Buch wendet sich an alle Interessierten, die das Land besser verstehen wollen. Die Sprache ist verständlich und prägnant (manchmal leger), ohne aber darauf zu verzichten, die wichtigsten Fachbegriffe vorzustellen. (Wenn der Autor im Zusammenhang mit Ismelda Marcos und Frau Aquino noch von "Kandidatin" statt "Kandidat" gesprochen hätte (S.71, S.73), wäre auch frau zufrieden).

Nach einer Einführung in "Land und Leute" stellt Hanisch die wichtigsten Züge der Kolonialherrschaft dar, die die auch für die heutige Lage noch bedeutsamen Grundlagen auf sozioökonomischen und politischem Gebiet gelegt hat. Wichtig der Hinweis, daß für die weitere wirtschaftliche Entwicklung (u.a. die Zuckerindustrie) der Philippinen der Umstand