

Introduction

This report is a collection of research papers prepared by the members of the joint research project on the Legislative Process in Thailand: Qualitative and Quantitative Analysis that was organized and conducted by the Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) of Japan, and the Faculty of Law, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand in the Japanese fiscal year of 2010.

The aim of this study is to build the basic understanding about the legislative process in Thailand, with a special focus to the institutional reforms relating to law-making since 1990s. Due to the pro-democratic political change and socio-economic transformation of Thai society especially after the Economic Crisis in 1997, many sectors have experienced rather comprehensive institutional reforms in last two decades. Such institutional reform in almost cases needs new legislation. It is not easy to enact legislation in a timely manner. The legislative process always contains a set of tensions between various concurring normative targets that are required for legislative process under the rule of law and parliamentary democracy. It is not surprising that the academic and practical concern about the unsatisfactory situations of the legislative process. There have been various efforts to reform the institutions for law making since 1990s.

In spite of the continuous institutional change of law-making, many aspects of such reforms or their consequence were not well studied. This study is our first effort to analyze to fill the gaps. This is our first step to study the legislative process of Asian countries. This research focuses only some aspects of the legislative

We hope this report will encourage the academic and practical concern about the legislative process in Asia, as well as the need of comparative studies among Asian countries.

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Editors

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