Legal Transplanting: International Financial Institutions and Secured Transactions Law Reform in South Pacific Island Nations

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The University of Hong Kong

International Financial Institutions (IFIs) are often the key actors promoting legal transplantation in developing countries. They play a significant role in law reform and enhancing the capacity of local law reform commissions to undertake research and develop new laws.

This presentation considers the literature on legal transplanting with reference to the current law reform practices of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - an IFI active in South Pacific island nations - in order to provide insights into the customisation processes involved when adapting laws from one jurisdiction into another.

The exemplar provided is the ADB’s secured transactions law reform efforts in the South Pacific. The secured transactions laws now in place in several South Pacific jurisdictions exhibit a high degree of American law influence. The presenters analyse the reforms adopted and consider reasons for the success of United States of America (U.S.) as an “exporter” in this area of the law.

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