Trust law is an innovative and flexible asset management tool developed over hundreds of years almost exclusively in the Anglo-American common law tradition. Due to its many virtues especially in facilitating economic and investment activities, various enterprising civil law countries in Asia in the past century have begun to embrace this previously alien legal concept to varying degrees of success. Thailand is the latest to join this group of pioneers with an introduction of the draft bill on “Trust for the Management of Private Assets” in July 2018. During the deliberation process, a lot of inspirations have been drawn from lessons learned in other Asian civil law countries particularly Japan. However, the implantation has so far proved more challenging than what the draftsmen had initially anticipated. This talk will take you through the history of trust law in Thailand as well as the early experience of designing the trust law that fits Thailand’s “legalistic (or formalistic) system of law”. Finally, it ends with the speaker’s proposal for a way forward for adopting trust law in Thailand with minimal disruptive effects. Comments and suggestions are highly welcome and deeply appreciated.

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