Japanese Law as the Applicable Law under The Hague Securities Convention: What Rule of Substantive Law Should Be Applied?

Yoshiaki NOMURA*

Abstract

This article discusses which substantive rules will apply under Japanese law to the resolution of specific issues in the case where Japanese law is determined to be applicable in accordance with the conflict of law rules under the Hague Securities Convention, if this Convention comes into force. In Part II, the development of legal principles regarding securities is briefly looked at from the perspective of visualization and clarification of ownership and the transfer of rights *in personam* (claims). In Part III, this article discusses how the Convention can be explained from the perspective of Japanese private international law, using specific cases relating to the securities settlement system envisaged by the Convention. Lastly, this article discusses, in the case where Japanese law is determined to be applicable under the Convention conflict-of-law rules, whether the conventional theory derived from the interpretation of the Civil Code should be applied, or a new approach embodied in the Act on Book-entry Transfer of Corporate Bonds and Shares and Other Rights should be applied. It is suggested that any issue in question should be explained through the approach taken by the Book-entry Transfer Act.

^{*} Professor, Osaka School of International Public Policy (OSIPP) and Osaka University Law School (OULS), Osaka University, Japan. E-mail: nomura@osipp.osaka-u.ac.jp Official website: http://www2.osipp.osaka-u.ac.jp/~nomura/index.html

This article was originally produced with the assistance of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (Designated field) – "Construction of Japanese-style Financial Transaction Model for Global Users" (Subject number: 16090203), and published under the title of "Hague Shoken Jyoyaku to Nihon-ho [Hague Securities Convention and Japanese Law]" in 37-3 Kokusai Shoji Homu 289 (2009). This wholly new version is based on a report presented at the "International Finance Roundtable – A Japanese Perspective" held at Queen Mary School of Law, University of London on February 27, 2009 and rewritten for English readers with new materials and footnotes. The author gratefully acknowledges the dedicated assistance of Mr. John Ribeiro, Research Assistant at the School of International Arbitration, Queen Mary, University of London.