

Guest editors' note

2020 marked the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Korea. During the past three-plus decades, relations between the two neighboring countries have developed vigorously in many areas. However, in the field of jurisprudence the exchange of ideas and the promotion of cooperation between Russia and Korea were almost nonexistent. For this reason, Russian and Korean jurists know very little about each other, which in turn makes it difficult to further develop relations. Nevertheless, the steady growth in bilateral trade and economic activity is creating increasing demand for the knowledge of private law, especially civil law of each other's country. Therefore, there is much significance in studying one another's legal norms and institutions.

In particular, Russian law is of special interest to Korean jurists, since it was Soviet civil law that laid the foundation of legal traditions in North Korea. Therefore, it is a must for Koreans studying the law of North Korea and preparing for a potential unification on the Korean peninsula to delve into Russian law, which can serve as a critical source of reference. Russian jurists on their part may also find many aspects of Korean law to be quite interesting from a comparative law point of view. Contrary to popular belief, the civil law of Russia and Korea have a lot in common. The law of both countries firmly has their roots in Roman law. Also, they are both Continental law countries, based on the Pandect system which signifies the overall strong influence of German law on their respective jurisdictions. Moreover, the civil law of Russia and Korea alike are increasingly experiencing the impact of Common law, which is creating complex problems as well as new opportunities for the development of jurisprudence in the two countries.

All in all, there are numerous reasons for studying the civil law of each other. In this regard, in 2020, we received from the editorial board of the journal "Pravovedenie", an invitation to be guest editors of a special issue dedicated to the private law of the Republic of Korea. We were eager to act in that capacity, given our genuine interest as scholars in Russian law, and a shared understanding of the need for academic exchange in the field of jurisprudence. After more than two years in the making, the special issue of this journal has come to include a variety of topics that examine the practical and doctrinal problems of Korean civil law.

Professor Young-Ho Shin, professor emeritus of Korea University, studies the recent trend and issues in amending family law in Korea. Professor Shin sheds light on the factors that have proved to be most critical in the history of amending Part IV (Relatives) of the Civil Code of Korea.

Professor Soonkoo Myoung of Korea University examines the legal institution of ownership in Korea, with particular focus on joint and collective ownership. Professor Myoung's paper provides an in-depth analysis of the relevant legal norms in the Civil Code of Korea, as well as a critical assessment of case law.

Professor Jewan Kim of Korea University analyses the legal system of a transaction arrangement called 'Chonse' for house or building lease that is unique to Korea. Professor

Kim offers not only an introduction to the legal institution but provides his insight on the prospect of Chonse in the future.

Professor Sung-Wook Kim of Jeju National University centers his attention on the housing lease system of a Reunified Korea. He recognizes the importance of looking ahead and preparing for a possible unification on the Korean peninsula. One of the most pressing issues in the event of a reunification would be addressing the matter of housing in North Korea, which he deals with in detail.

Doctor Sanghoon Kim, a leading expert in Korea on inheritance law, provides an overview of the legal institutions of wills and the legal reserve of inheritance. Doctor Kim dissects Part V (Inheritance) of the Civil Code of Korea, and reviews relevant case law of the Supreme Court of Korea.

Professor Jewoo Lee of Kangnam University offers a comparative legal analysis of the institutions of non-contractual liability in South and North Korea. The difference between the legal institutions of the two Koreas is emphasized, while taking into account the impact of the legal norms of Soviet and Russian law on North Korea.

The article of the applicant for a degree of candidate of legal sciences in MGIMO University (Russia) Sofia A. Zarubenko is dedicated to the issues of the marine vessel mortgage under the law of the Republic of Korea, compared with that of Russia.

Hopefully, the articles in this special issue of the journal "Pravovedenie" on private law of the Republic of Korea will prove to be helpful to Russian readers in laying the foundation for better understanding Korean law. There would be nothing more meaningful than for this special issue to serve as a steppingstone in building trust and interest between the jurists in Russia and Korea.

Guest editors of the issue

Myoung Soonko,

PhD in Law, Professor of Korea University
School of Law (Rep. of Korea)

Lee Jewoo,

PhD in Law, Assistant Professor of Kangnam University,
Department of Real Estate and Construction (Rep. of Korea)